

**Yorkshire Naturalists' Union**

**ORNITHOLOGICAL  
REPORT**  
**for**  
**1987**

**compiled by**  
**W. F. Curtis**

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# Yorkshire Naturalists' Union Ornithological Section

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## Report for 1987 Edited by W.F. Curtis

During the course of the year a total of 291 species were recorded of which 144 were considered to have bred. Two species were recorded in the county for the first time; a Black-throated Thrush in Sheffield and a Black-headed Bunting at Broomfleet. Prevailing easterly winds in autumn produced an excellent series of rarities including Dusky; Radde's; Pallas's; Greenish; and Arctic Warblers together with Olive-backed Pipit; Little; Rustic and Yellow-breasted Buntings. Other notable rare birds reported during the year were White-billed Diver; Little Shearwater; Ross's Gull; Thrush Nightingale; Red-throated Pipit; Black-eared Wheatear; Cetti's; Great Reed and Subalpine Warblers.

Considering breeding birds first; raptors generally showed an increase though in some cases, and Goshawk in particular, this was in spite of persecution by man and bad weather at vital periods of the breeding season. Peregrine bred at Booth Dam Quarry where the RSPB established a public viewing platform. Their efforts and dedication must elicit grateful thanks from all. This species also did well in other parts of the county. Sparrowhawk continues to slowly increase and in many areas is now back to its former status. Hobby may well have bred following last year's success.

Waterfowl also had a good year particularly in the east of the county though in small pockets in the west success was not as good as would be hoped. Garganey, however, did not breed in the Derwent, an area which has provided many records in recent years, but was successful in the south. Red-breasted Merganser still maintains a tenuous hold whilst Goosander goes from strength to strength in spite of persecution in some areas by fishing interests. Feral species continue to thrive with Grey Lag Goose outpacing the earlier introduced Canada Goose in the east and extending its range westwards. Ruddy Duck continues its slow but relentless march eastwards.

Of the seabirds, Gannet is still increasing at Bempton though not to the apparent detriment of the auks - all three considered to be increasing slowly. Fulmar would appear to be fairly static but possibly consolidating within its present range. Kittiwake likewise shows little change in numbers though with 75000+ pairs a small increase or decrease is not easy to detect.

Heron is unchanged in the county but increasing in V.C. 61 after several lean years. Quail bred at several locations and Corncrake bred at two, possibly three, in the east, a pleasing event. The rarer waders; Black-tailed Godwit and Ruff did not stay to breed; the latter after an extremely promising spring on the Lower Derwent. Little Ringed

Plover appears to be becoming rather scarce in the east though still well distributed in the west. Few changes noted in other waders though Common Sandpiper bred in the east for the first time and possibly the first time in V.C. 61. Breeding gulls maintain healthy populations whilst Little Terns still maintain a toe hold – hopefully to be helped by more wardening if numbers should show signs of increase.

Barn Owl, regrettably, shows a downward trend whilst Long-eared Owl had a very poor year. Nightjar bred in good numbers again in the Thorne Moors area and is still thought to have a viable population on the edge of the North York Moors though no details have been forthcoming. East of the Derwent, Kingfisher has become a rare bird with no proven breeding. Sand Martin continues to increase in all areas whilst Grey Wagtail shows signs of spreading, albeit slowly, into the lowlands of the east. A small population of Nightingales still exists in the south with Black Redstart continuing to breed in some of the larger cities.

Grasshopper Warbler had an excellent year though Reed and Sedge Warblers appear to be declining, particularly in the extreme east; the latter however, making use of the changing farming habits and utilising large verges together with the large increase in oil seed rape crops. Finches and Buntings, if anything, are showing a slight decline though Reed Bunting, like Sedge Warbler, is associating more and more with rape crops.

Record high counts for the county were recorded for several non breeding birds; those being; Red-throated Diver and Gadwall at Hornsea; Common Snipe at Wheldrake; Eider, Puffin, Long-tailed Skua and Little Gull at Flamborough; Mute Swan at Fairburn; Golden Plover on the Humber Wildfowl Refuge; Black Redstart at Spurn and Common Scoter at Aldbrough. Very high numbers of several other species being reported, several very close to the county maximum. The 'discovery' of the Whimbrel roost at Wheldrake being noteworthy and hopefully not an isolated event.

Swift and Willow Warbler both recorded arrival dates before the previous earliest with an extremely early arrival of Wood Warbler. Whinchat was reported far later than any previously whilst the Swallow near York was one of the latest ever.

Uncommon and semi rare species were reported from many well watched areas, frequently inland, a vindication for those observers faithful to their own locations.

On a completely different subject, I feel that a few words of explanation are necessary concerning the late arrival of this report. With the excellent response by individuals and societies to our request for timely submission of records it is no doubt frustrating to then see no result. This report was three quarters written and typed when the editor learnt that the previous one was as large as the printers could staple. As the envisaged length was in excess of that number of pages a fresh start had to be made, accounting for this delay. A unilateral decision was also taken by the editor to change the format and use figures for all numbers below 10. This decision was not taken lightly knowing the finished product would be less easy to read and thus I offer my apologies to those who feel likewise. Finally the Reports Committee thanks local recorders and the very many observers throughout the County who have submitted records to the YNU, and as Editor may I express my gratitude to the V.C. recorders for their assistance in the compilation of this report.

BILL CURTIS APRIL 1989

### Rare Breeding Birds in Yorkshire

In the introduction to the 1984 Report we stated that the recorders annually experience difficulty in collecting information for the *British Birds* Rare Breeding Birds Panel. Since that time there has been little change in the situation. Once again we assure those concerned that records will be treated with the utmost confidence, and if the observer wishes the precise locality of the breeding site need not be disclosed.

Records may be submitted to the appropriate vice-county recorder, or to the report editor, or direct to the panel only if the observer so wishes. The system used by the panel for indicating geographic locations is done on a regional basis and Yorkshire falls

within 'England North'. and should the observer request omission of the county name on the grounds of security the panel will respect that wish and use the regional name.

A list of species that are known to have bred, or have attempted to breed in the county in the last 12 years and for which the panel requests data is given below. A full list of the species considered by the panel appeared in British Birds 81: 102-103.

Black-necked Grebe	Quail
Little Bittern	Corncrake
Pintail	Ruff
Garganey	Black-tailed Godwit
Pochard	Little Gull
Marsh Harrier	Black Redstart
Montagu's Harrier	Fieldfare
Goshawk	Parrot Crossbill
Hobby	

J.E. DALE APRIL 1989

## The Reports Committee

### History

In the early part of the century the recording of the birds seen in the county was very fragmented and depended upon reports sent to the Editor of *The Naturalist* at irregular intervals. In 1940 the Ornithological Section was set up with R. M Garnett as Chairman and Ralph Chislett as Secretary, together with four recorders, one for each of the Ridings and one for the York area. The first combined report, collated by Chislett was published in *The Naturalist* in 1941, and from that year until 1959, when it became clear that the work load was too much for one man of advancing age, Chislett produced the report single handed. This first committee dealt with all the administrative work of the Section as well as collecting and collating records of birds seen and submitted to the four recorders.

In 1960 the work load was divided. A General Committee was set up, with an executive committee responsible solely for the production of the Annual Ornithological Report. At that time a change was made to the recording area for which each recorder had responsibility, the Section adopting the policy of using the Watsonian Vice-County system which was already in use by other disciplines in the Union. For ten years the Reports Committee consisted, solely, of the five recorders, one for each vice-county, each in turn taking responsibility for also collating and writing the full report. This system ran into difficulties for various reasons, in the main the growing number of local societies and the rapid growth in the hobby of birdwatching resulting in an explosion in the volume of records to be processed. In 1970 J. R. Mather took on the editorship of the report, and A. J. Wallis became the committee's secretary. Mather wrote the reports from 1970 to 1979, as well as being a vice-county recorder until 1978, when an additional member was added to the committee as recorder for Vice-County 64. From that time the committee has consisted of a Chairman, Secretary, Report Editor and five vice-county Recorders. (The present membership is shown at the beginning of this report).

One other historical matter needs to be mentioned. In 1974 when the political boundaries of the county were changed the Union Executive took the decision that recording would continue within the five Vice-Counties, 61 to 65. The reports Committee felt this was not logical in handling bird records, as by that time neighbouring counties had Ornithological Societies which observed the same disciplines adopted in Yorkshire and it was illogical that we should expect observers to submit records to two authoritative societies and for their records to be published twice. It would not have worked. So areas which were originally within the old Yorkshire boundary were relinquished, mainly in V.C. 62, 64 and 65, to the care of established societies watching these areas.

### **Recorders**

Vice-County Recorders have the responsibility of collecting and collating as many observations of birds seen in their vice-county as proves possible, and in order that they can prepare for the Report Editor a comprehensive summary of the records received for each species.

This is helped by maintaining a close association with individual observers and, where a local society exists, by co-operating with the recorder of that society.

### **Rare and Description Species**

When the committee was set up it established a relationship with the *British Birds* Rarities Committee, and also established a list of birds seen only occasionally in the county and of species for which pitfalls existed in ensuring correct identification. Observers seeing a species on either the *British Birds* list or our own list of description species are invited to submit the details of the record to this committee in the first instance. The local list is kept constantly under review and deletions are made when this is felt to be right.

All such records are seen by all members of the committee and the criteria for assessing each record are in accord and follow the disciplines laid down by B.B.R.C.

The advantage of submitting records of birds on the B.B.R.C. list to our committee first and allowing the V.C. recorders to send the record to B.B.R.C. have been repeatedly stressed, and is the preferred procedure requested by the B.B.R.C. Committee. In the 'Report on rare birds in Great Britain in 1987' published in the November issue of British Birds the secretary says in his introduction 'All reports of any species on this Committee's list should be sent to the Secretary . . . preferably via the appropriate county or regional recorder'.

During any year the committee is required to adjudicate on as many as 200-300 records of description species seen in the county.

### **Timetable**

It has been the committee's policy to publish an annual report which included the records of birds seen in all parts of the county, but increasing delays in publication have arisen because of the difficulty of obtaining the records from some local societies who have themselves been faced with an ever increasing work load to process.

In 1987 the committee had to agree a timetable should be published and that even if records from some areas of the county had not been received by the due date publication would go ahead regardless. The timetable laid down is:

Records to reach the vice-county recorder by 31 March following the end of the year being reviewed;

Vice-county recorders to have their summaries and reports available and in the hands of the Editor by 31 July;

The Editor to have the completed report manuscript with the printers by 31 October.

If this timetable is maintained the report would be available to Union members and on sale to non-members within 15 months after the end of the year reported.

Any significant records received late would be given mention in the next report published after they were submitted to this committee.

### **Meetings**

The committee meets two or three times a year as the need to meet demands. The business can cover a wide range of topics related to advancing or improving the manner or way in which the committee works.

The two main items on every agenda are always the progress reached towards publication of the next annual report, and discussion and review of descriptions of rarity records about which there is some aspect which presents a straight forward acceptance of the record.

**A. J. WALLIS,  
Secretary.**

## Classified List

All the rare and unusual species in this report have been considered by the Reports Committee and found acceptable on the written evidence supplied by the observers, and have also been accepted by the *British Birds Rarities Committee* where applicable unless otherwise stated. The sequence and nomenclature used is that of Voous K. H., *List of Recent Holarctic Bird Species* (1973 and 1977). B.O.U. 1977.

### **Red-throated Diver *Gavia stellata***

Reported during all months along the coast with large counts in the early months. In January; at Flamborough 139 on 3rd; 201 on 17th; 152 on 21st; 454 north on 24th with 85 at Hornsea, 140 in Bridlington Bay and 203 north off Filey. On 25th; 60 at Hornsea, 213 at Flamborough and 41 in one hour off Long Nab. Fewer at Filey and Flamborough in February with very few at Spurn but high counts at Hornsea. 135 there on 7th; 228 on 14th; 112 on 20th; 140 on 21st; 224 on 22nd and 598 on 24th (this being the highest count ever in Yorkshire). Flamborough recorded 125 on 7th; 112 on 20th with 161 off Bridlington on 7th. Fewer still in March with maxima of 42 at Hornsea and 71 at Flamborough. Only Flamborough and Staithes reported more than 10 during April–May with the former having 29 on 4th April; 20 on 25th May and Staithes, 15 on 12th April.

1–3 along the coast during June–July excepting 8 at Flamborough on 23rd July and 7 on 26th. Slightly more occurrences in August though 8 at Flamborough on 31st was the highest count. Daily during September; 68 at Filey being their maximum, Flamborough reporting 86 on 26th and 103 on 27th. Daily in October; up to 25 at Filey; 33 at Flamborough on 10th and 10 at Hornsea on 24th. Maxima in November at Filey of 47; 59 at Flamborough on 24th and 42 at Hornsea on the same day. Generally fewer in December but 114 at Hornsea on 6th; 63 on 11th with 53 at Flamborough on 12th.

Single birds along the Humber at Blacktoft on 15th January; 8th February and 13th March; at Sunk Island/Stone Creek on 8th and 22nd February and 8th March.

From inland locations, single birds reported as follows; Hornsea Mere on 21st; 24th/25th and 28th February; 14th March. Wath Ings on 14th February; Ardsley Res. on 10th October; Redmires Res. on 14th November; Eccup Res. on 17th January being found dead there on 7th February and Nosterfield from 22nd of 24th February.

Number of divers off Spurn again reported as being lower than previous years but few were specifically identified; 116 on 2nd and 57 on 7th January with up to 43 during November as the peaks there.

An unidentified diver flew along the River Aire at Horsforth on 28th January.

### **Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica***

Quite frequently along the coast with usually only 1–2 birds but up to 8 occasionally reported. 4 were at Flamborough on 3rd and 4th January; 5 on 18th and 5 again on 24th. At Long Nab, 5 on 25th (MFr). During February, Flamborough recorded 1 bird on 4 days though Hornsea, with 6 birds in January, had 38 this month with 5 on 7th; 7 on 14th; 6 on 21st; 4 on 22nd and 8 on 24th (GRB).

Reported during March on more days though in smaller numbers Barmston had 4 on 17th and 7 on 25th (KR). In April, 3 at Flamborough on 19th being the only report of more than 1 bird. Singles reported on 3 days at Flamborough in May and on 2 days at Hornsea whilst during June the only record was from Flamborough on 13th. None reported during July.

Single birds were reported in August from Spurn on 2 days and 1 at Hornsea. An increase during September particularly at Spurn with 5 on 13th. 3 at Flamborough on 24th and 25th but no birds reported from Hornsea. Spurn had 4 on 28th October otherwise nowhere else reported more than 1 bird. More frequent during November;

Flamborough having 3 on 21st and 25th with 2 birds on 5 other days. 6 at Spurn on 1st. In December 4 south at Spurn on 29th whilst Flamborough had 3 birds on 2nd and Hornsea 3 on 6th.

#### **Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer***

In contrast to recent years quite a few birds reported during the early months of the year. Flamborough had 2 on 3rd January; 4 on 4th with 1 on 7th; 11th; 15th and 18th. Filey 1 on 25th; Long Nab 1 on 5th and 18th with 1 at Barmston on 25th (PAL: MFr: KR *et al*). In February, single birds at Hornsea on 7th; 14th and 20th (GRB); at Long Nab on 8th (MFr) and Staithes on 16th (MJH: OCP). Single birds in March at Hornsea on 10th and 14th; at Filey on 4th (SC: PMS) and Flamborough on 29th whilst an immature frequented Filey from 21st March until 16th April. Single birds during May at Spurn on 13th and 26th and Flamborough on 16th and 22nd.

In August 2 birds at Flamborough on 24th with 1 on 18th; 19th; 21st and 23rd. In September singles at Spurn on 7th; 9th; 12th and 17th and off Hornsea on 7th. 2 at Spurn on 13th. During October, singles at Spurn on 29th; Hornsea on 18th and Flamborough on 12th; 14th; 18th and 19th. 3 at Flamborough on 20th and 21st November with 3 at Hornsea on 22nd. 2 north off Hornsea on both 25th and 26th with 1 at Filey on 23rd (GRB: SC). Singles, all north, at Flamborough on 8th; Hornsea on 3rd; 21st; 23rd; 27th and 28th and at Spurn on 25th and 27th. The only bird reported in December was at Flamborough on 2nd.

#### **White-billed Diver *Gavia adamsii***

An adult on the sea at Filey Brigg on 31st January succumbed to oiling on 2nd February and finally died the following day (FN: HJW *et al*).

An adult was present off Flamborough from 28th September to 4th October (JCL: PAL *et al*).

#### **Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis***

Definite breeding records from V.C. 61 at Grimston and Eastington whilst possible breeding may have occurred at Burstwick. Bred in V.C. 62 at Costa Beck and Ellerburn Fish Ponds, both near Pickering. In V.C. 63, 27 pairs produced 63 young whilst a further 31 pairs bred successfully though no details were forthcoming. At least 31 breeding pairs in V.C. 64 rearing 84 young; the strongholds being Fairburn Ings with 9 pairs and Mickletown Ings with 8 pairs. 5 breeding pairs in V.C. 65; 2 at Bolton-on-Swale and 1 each at Newton-le-Willows; Hackforth and Kirby Fleetham.

24 on the River Hull near Tophill Low Res. on 21st December with 14 there on 8th March. 21 along the River Don on 15th January between Tinsley and Sheffield City centre. 30 at Blacktoft on 18th July; 37 at Wilsthorpe Marsh on 19th August; 34 at Wintersett Res. on 18th August with 35 there on 6th November. Wath Ings held up to 58 during August with 65 on 6th September. 36 at Fairburn Ings on 18th September and 25 at Mickletown Ings on 31st August whilst at Bolton-on-Swale 23 were reported during September and October.

#### **Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus***

The wintering flock in Bridlington Bay was low at the start of the year with 34 on 24th January increasing to 83 on 7th February (SML) and peaking at 96 on 17th March (GRB). 29 there on 7th November being the only count during the latter months. 11 off Hornsea on 21st November with 19 there on 22nd.

Successful breeding in V.C. 61 only at Burstwick and Saltmarsh Delph; a second pair at Burstwick failed as did 6 pairs at Broomfleet Ponds.

Hornsea Mere had 10 on 21st February with up to 11 during November; Tophill Low Res., 8 on 11th January; absent during February but from 7th March up to 7 were reported daily until September though occasionally 9 present but 16 during most of July and 19 on 12th. Records in V.C. 61 were received from only 5 locations thus either a

change in status is occurring or this species is greatly under recorded. Up to 6 occasionally on the sea at Filey; Flamborough and Spurn with slightly larger counts at Hornsea.

1 pair bred in V.C. 62, at Clifton Airfield Lake (SR). Small numbers along the coast during the first 3 months of the year with 4 in Scarborough North Bay on 27th/28th February.

In V.C. 63, 46 pairs raised at least 82 young with further pairs being unsuccessful. The highest count of the year came from Wintersett Res. with 37 on 18th August. Several high counts prior to the onset of severe weather in January, Wintersett reporting 20 on 3rd with 12 at the Rother Valley C.P. on 2nd. 22 at Wintersett on 22nd February and up to 26 there in April. 24 at Bretton Park on 11th March and 20 at Wentworth on 18th. 19 at Pugney's on 4th April. 21 at Blackmoorfoot Res. during late May with 24 at Treeton Dyke on 3rd. 18 at Treeton Dyke on 31st August and 20 at Wentworth Lakes on 14th September.

V.C. 64 reported a very poor breeding season in the Leeds area, only 13 young being reared by 9 pairs at 7 locations. Elsewhere in the V.C., 26 pairs raised some 52 young – 9 pairs being at Fairburn Ings. Spring peaks reported being 15 at Knotford Nook on 12th and 13th March; 14 at Eccup Res. on 28th April. Autumn peaks, 28 at Eccup on 25th July with up to 18 at Fairburn Ings.

In V.C. 65; a single pair bred at Catterick rearing 2 young with another pair at Scorton Quarry being unsuccessful.

#### **Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena***

An excellent year along the coast. Filey had birds present on many days from 5th January to 28th March with 4 on 31st January and 7th February (HJW *et al*) and a peak of 5 on 1st February (GRB). Single birds at Scarborough on several days in January and early February with possibly a second bird on 22nd/23rd February and 2nd March. Further north 2 were off Long Nab on 25th and 29th January with 1 there on 5th February (MFr). Flamborough reported 1 on 7th January with 7 on 15th; 4 on 17th; 3 on 18th; 2 on 24th; 25th and 28th with 1 on 29th. Single birds at Hornsea on 1st February; at Flamborough on 7th and 18th. 3 at Flamborough on 21st with 2 on 22nd and 25th and 1 on 26th. At Easington, an oiled bird reported on 4th and 5th February and a dead bird there on 22nd. Single birds at Hornsea on 7th March and Flamborough on 21st. 2 at Spurn on 8th April.

A single bird at Flamborough on 4th June was an unusual date after which 1 at Filey on 10th August. 4 at Flamborough on 11th. Single birds at Spurn on 23rd; Hornsea on 27th and Flamborough on 21st; 29th and 30th. 1 in Filey Bay on 30th remained there until 1st October with a second bird present on 19th September (SC). Single birds were reported during September from Flamborough on 3rd; 10th; 21st and 30th; at Hornsea on 19th; Grimston on 5th (TI) and Barmston on 13th (DW). 2 at Flamborough on 20th and 26th.

Slightly less well distributed during October though 2 at Flamborough on 1st, 1 on 11th, 2 again on 12th and 3 on 15th whilst Spurn reported 1 on 22nd and Whitby 1 on 30th (MJH: JCLO). Regular during November with single birds at Flamborough on 1st; 5th; 21st; 23rd; 27th and 29th; Filey on 3 occasions during the month and Hornsea on 21st; 25th and 26th. 1 at Filey on 29th; at Hornsea on 22nd and 23rd and from Flamborough on 22nd; 24th; 26th and 28th with 6 on the 25th. 2 at Flamborough again on 2nd December with 1 at Filey on the 2nd and Hornsea also on 2nd plus 5th and 8th (TDC: GRB).

Away from the coast, single birds in V.C. 61 at Hornsea Mere on 26th January (GRB); Hull Docks on 30th (BR); Tophill Low Res. on 1st February (TR) and Wheldrake Ings on 5th (PP) remaining until 7th (TED).

V.C. 63 had single birds at Angler's Lake from 14th to 30th January (SD *et al*) on the River Trent off Blacktoft on 17th; at Thrybergh Res. on 30th (KJH: WD) and Wintersett Res. on 31st August (PM).

The only report from V.C. 64 was of an oiled bird in partial summer plumage at Eccup Res. on 5th March (RLD: SPS) and from V.C. 65 1 at Thornton Steward Res. from 26th November until 6th December.

#### **Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps auritus***

Single birds at Flamborough on 3rd January and 3rd March (PAL); Bridlington on 4th January (KR); Scarborough on 10th February (MJH: OCP) and Hornsea on 20th February (GRB).

In the latter months, a summer plumaged bird on the sea at Flamborough on 30th September (PAL); single birds at Hornsea Mere on 3rd October and 7th November (GRB: RSPB); Whitby on 30th October (MJH: OCP) and Spurn on 15th November. 2 flew north at Flamborough on both 25th and 26th November (AMA). 1 at Filey on 20th October was also reported on 4 occasions until 15th November (HJW *et al*). Single birds at Flamborough on 27th November and 2nd December (PAL).

Inland, in V.C. 63, single birds at Elland G.P. on 7th February and from 15th to 20th (JPA: RS *et al*); at Angler's Lake on 30th September (SD: GJS) and at Pugney's on 8th November (DP *et al*).

In V.C. 64, single birds at Hay-a-Park on 25th November (PVI) and Chelker Res. from 6th to 31st December (PMW: MP *et al*).

#### **Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis***

8 in Filey Bay on 8th May were in full summer plumage (TLH *et al*). 2 at Hornsea Mere on 5th April whilst an adult and juvenile were at Redmires Res. from 1st to 18th September (GRB: MSN *et al*).

Single birds were reported in V.C. 61 from Barmston on 25th January (KR); Wheldrake Ings between 16th and 29th April (DW) and frequently until 29th June (AB); Tophill Low Res. from 27th April to 5th May and again from 8th to 10th and 13th to 16th (RL: ASP *et al*). At Filey on 29th May (JWC) and at the Dams Reserve there on the following 2 days. (JWC: HJW *et al*). Tophill Low Res. on 9th and 10th June (JC *et al*); 26th July (KJA: SA); 2nd and 11th September (MRM: HTJ). Single birds flew north off Hornsea on 22nd November and 6th December (GRB).

1 present at Wombwell Ings, in V.C. 63, from 24th to 26th April (CN *et al*) and near Sheffield from 1st June on several days until 12th (MGF: RJL: CJM).

In V.C. 64 single birds recorded at Fairburn Ings from 10th to 18th April and again on 6th May (TDC *et al*); on 24th August; at Eccup Res. on 26th September (RCH: AJM *et al*) whilst at Nosterfield, in V.C. 65, 1 was present on 21st and 22nd May.

Addition to 1986 Report: 1 at Bolton-on-Swale G.P. from 25th March to 3rd April and from 30th August to 16th September (DBt).

#### **Albatross sp *Diomedea sp***

A single bird seen flying north off Filey Brigg on 11th October (CE: MH) with another off Briel Head, Flamborough on 18th October (SW). Both these records were submitted as Black-browed Albatross but have been accepted by the *British Birds Rarities Committee* as unidentified albatrosses.

A single bird off Long Nab on 2nd January (MFr) was accepted by the YNU as an unidentified albatross but rejected as such by the *British Birds Rarities Committee*.

#### **Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis***

An estimated 700 pairs bred along the cliffs at the RSPB Reserve at Bempton; no other records of breeding being received. Large counts reported from Flamborough Head with 1950 on 7th January and 3355 on 28th; 3218 on 7th February; 1500 on 18th March; 2490 on 12th April. In May, 2020 on 3rd; 1455 on 4th and 1200 on the 22nd. Smaller numbers in June but 1800 on 18th; in July 4600 on 25th; 3025 on 26th and 3710 on 30th. 7660 on 5th August with 5760 on 6th; 4300 on 26th and 10012 on 27th. Scarce in September with 473 on 2nd and 200 on 17th. 1120 on 1st October but never more than 6 on any other day that month. 3950 on 20th November with 3150 on 23rd and

2160 on 24th, 440 on 6th December and 405 on 12th. Filey had 960 per hour passing on 7th March; up to 800 per hour on several days during May and 124 in 1 hour on 23rd November. Good numbers off Hornsea with 608 on 22nd May and 2860 on 27th August; this latter being the highest ever count for this location. Smaller number off Spurn with 356 on 3rd May and 304 on 22nd. No large counts reported from north of Filey.

Away from the coast; at Sunk Island; 1 on 19th April; 2nd May; 6th June and 22nd August with 3 on 23rd. At Paull 1 on 24th and 26th August whilst 1 at Blacktoft on 14th September.

Inland records, all concerning single birds, from Hole of Horcum (near Fylingdales) on 1st July; Ingbirchworth Res. on 4th August and Broomhill Flash on 10th September.

'Blue' phased birds were frequently reported along the coast especially from Flamborough where during August a total of 827 were recorded on 22 days; 631 of these being on the 6th with 15 on 8th and 107 on 10th; 9 on 16th and 25 on 27th. 7 on 28th September; 9 on 22nd November and 4 on 26th. 1-3 being reported during all other months with the exception of June. At Hornsea 11 were reported during the year with 4 on 22nd May and 3 the following day. Single birds at Spurn on 22nd May and on 4 days at Filey in July and August.

Addition to the 1986 Report:

1 over Horley Green, Halifax on 23rd May.

#### **Cory's Shearwater** *Calonectris diomedea*

Another good year. Single birds were reported from Flamborough on 11th May and 6th June (PAL); from Hornsea on 25th July (GRB). 3 north and 1 south at Hornsea on 26th July (GRB). Singles at Flamborough on 2nd August (PAL: AMA: JCL) and 8th (JCL) when one was also reported from Hornsea (GRB). Further single birds off Flamborough on 11th and 24th August, 20th and 28th September (PAL: JCL).

#### **Great Shearwater** *Puffinus gravis*

A poor year. 1 at Flamborough on 6th August (AMA).

#### **Sooty Shearwater** *Puffinus griseus*

2 on 14th and 1 on 20th February at Flamborough were unseasonal. 2 north at Staithes on 4th April (MJH) and 2 off Scarborough on 13th May. Became fairly regular along the coast from mid July, 1 at Flamborough on 17th; 3 on 19th with 4 at Filey that day. 7 off Flamborough on 21st with 46 on 25th and 29 on 26th. 90 on 1st August; 66 on 5th; 60 on 24th; 96 on 25th and 238 on 31st. In September 32 on 7th; 176 on 10th; 247 on 12th; 59 on 16th; 40 on 18th; 152 on 19th; 81 on 26th with 99 on 27th and 53 on 28th. Smaller numbers in October with 5 on 11th and 3 on 16th. 6 on 3rd November with 4 on 9th and single birds recorded on 8 other days of the month. 3 on 2nd December and 1 on 5th. Hornsea recorded 3 on 25th July with 18 on 26th. Up to 9 during the early days of August but 13 on 6th and 15 on 23rd. 1 on 23rd November with 4 on both 24th and 25th. Filey had up to 8 during early August with 20 on 25th. 43 flew south there, not the normal direction, on 5th September with up to 30 reported on several other days of this month. 30 north off Scarborough on 24th August with 12 the following day. Spurn recorded 1-2 during early August with 20 on 24th and 35 north on 31st otherwise only small numbers there. Singles at Spurn on 26th November and at Filey on 15th and 28th.

The only record away from the coast was 1 flying east in mid Humber off Sunk Island on 27th September (JW).

#### **Manx Shearwater** *Puffinus puffinus*

A early bird north off Bridlington on January 4th (KR) was also reported passing Filey (JAP: HJW). Single birds at Flamborough on 23rd February; 29th March; at Hornsea on 11th April and Filey on 24th. From early May birds reported regularly with 18 at Flamborough on 4th; 53 on 10th and 17 on both 16th and 21st. In June, 68 on

4th with 20 on 8th; 44 on 10th and 36 on 18th. Almost daily in July with 74 on 5th; 95 on 8th; 235 on 12th; 121 on 21st then 164 on 25th with 195 on 26th. During August, 183 on 2nd; 265 on 5th and 170 on 6th; 189 on 8th, 107 on 10th with 107 again on 24th. 58 on 12th September; 191 on 19th; 116 on 20th; 86 on 26th and 112 on 27th. Small numbers in October with 8 on 9th; 10 on 16th and 9 on 17th. 3 on 21st and 23rd November with 1 on 6th December. Hornsea had up to 7 during June with 66 north on 25th July; 128 north on 27th and 77 on 28th. 129 on 6th August; 80 on 9th and 54 on 27th. Few observations during September with the last being single birds in October. Spurn likewise reported up to 7 during June with 20 on 27th July. 80 on 9th August; 38 on 24th with 23 on 27th. In September, 19 on 16th; 26 on 17th and 20 on 20th. In October only single birds on 4 days. The only large count at Filey was 112 north on 21st July with the last bird there on 23rd November. At Scarborough 33 north on 13th June with 22 on 21st July and 33 on 22nd. 34 there on 24th August.

Away from the coast 1 reported flying over the mouth of the River Trent at Blacktoft on 12th September (AG) whilst along the Humber 2 were reported from Sunk Island on 26th September with 7 on 27th and 1 on 11th October (JW). A single bird picked up at Allerston on 17th September was released at Filey on 19th (SC).

Birds of the Balearic race *P.p. mauretanicus* were reported from Flamborough with single birds on 7 days in August; 12 days during September and on 3rd November. 3 there on 22nd and 31st August; 4 on 11th and 12th September with 3 on 13th; 7 on 19th; 5 on 25th and 4 on 27th. At Hornsea, single birds on 25th May; 24th August and 25th November (GRB: PAL: AMA: DGH: JCL *et al*).

#### Addition to the 1986 Report:

Single birds of the race *P.p. mauretanicus* were reported from Hornsea on 31st July; 11th and 13th August (GRB).

#### **Little Shearwater** *Puffinus assimilis*

Single birds reported flying north off Flamborough on 18th and 19th September (AMA: DGH: JCL: PAL). Records still under consideration by the *British Birds Rarities Committee*.

#### **Storm Petrel** *Hydrobates pelagicus*

Single birds flying north at Hornsea on 25th July (SML), at Spurn on 27th August and Flamborough on 27th September (AMA). Single birds were brought into Filey on fishing vessels on 29th October (TLH) and 1st December (AWi). Both were released and seen to fly strongly out to sea.

Unidentified storm petrels were reported from Spurn on 27th August and 31st; both were flying north and considered to have been this species rather than Leach's.

#### **Leach's Storm Petrel** *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*

A single bird flying over the Humber at Spurn on 25th October.

#### **Gannet** *Sula bassana*

A census of the breeding colony at Bempton by the RSPB revealed some 780 occupied nests with 660 young counted during mid August (PPh).

Numbers reported along the coast normal though Flamborough had slightly higher counts than for several years. 41 there on 26th January being the maximum for that month with 254 on 7th February. Numbers during March and April were fairly static though large counts were reported by early May with 976 on 4th. 407 on 4th June; 950 on 10th and 550 on 18th whilst in July, 767 on 18th; 942 on 25th and 779 on 26th. The first counts of over 1000 occurred during August with 1687 on 5th; 1038 on 6th; 1952 on 25th then 3286 on 26th and 3854 on 27th (this being the second highest count ever in Yorkshire); 1098 on 29th; 1270 on 30th and 1038 on 31st. In September 1458 on 12th; 1158 on 19th and 1736 on 27th with usually between 500 and 900 reported. Generally decreased in numbers during October but 639 on 11th with 1652 on 16th and 813 on 18th. 190 on 1st November being the last count there of over 100 for the year. Numbers

at Filey were much lower though in many instances the period of the count was much shorter. 362 on 1st October during 2 hours being the highest count of the year there. Hornsea also produced a similar pattern to Flamborough albeit on a much lower scale with 336 on 26th July; 289 on 3rd August; 554 on 27th. 101 on 19th September being the last large count whilst further south at Spurn 247 on 3rd May and 109 on 22nd after which usually below 100 until August when 144 on 9th; 100 on 23rd; 145 on 24th and 108 on 31st. In September 100 on 5th and 260 on 27th with 113 on 18th October and 116 on 28th after which 84 on 1st November then no more than 26 birds on any one day.

North of Filey the only counts of over 100 were 105 at Staithes on 12th April with 292 there on 31st August; 351 on 2nd September and 300 on 3rd.

Quite frequently reported from the Humber particularly at Sunk Island with 2 on 5th September; 14 on 12th; 5 on 26th; 71, all juveniles, on 27th (21 east and 50 west); 19 on 11th October and 1 on 1st November. Smaller numbers at Cherry Cobb with 4 west on 11th October and from Paull with 5 flying east on 20th September. A single bird over the River Trent at Blacktoft on 16th October and 1 found freshly dead at Arthington on 14th September.

#### Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

No comments received this year concerning breeding status.

The highest count along the coast came from Flamborough and Filey with 54 to the south on 28th August at the latter as their maximum. 10 to 42 being present there during the period January–July whilst Flamborough, during this same period reported very few with 20 on 25th May as the maximum. Passage here increased during August with 49 on 16th and 43 on 29th. Daily totals during September were generally over 50 with 86 on 12th; 130 on 13th; 106 on 20th and 99 on 27th. This heavy passage continued into October with 50 on 10th; 69 on 13th 74 on 16th and 71 on 18th thereafter decreasing into November with 30 on 1st; 50 on 7th; 54 on 21st and 34 on 27th becoming very scarce in December with 8 on 30th as the highest count.

Reported almost daily off Hornsea consisting mainly of birds commuting to the tree roost at the Mere with 37 on 21st November as the maximum. Numbers using the Mere increased to the level of former years after several lean ones. Counts there gave 71 on 24th January; 81 on 14th February; 59 on 7th March; 44 on 16th October; 94 on 27th November and 69 on 7th December (GRB).

Few records from V.C. 62 with 24 at Staithes on 2nd September as the highest count along the coast whilst the only inland record being 2 at Ellerburn Fish Ponds near Pickering on 12th November.

Recorded from over 20 locations in V.C. 63 during all months with Blacktoft being the main site. 14 there on 15th January with 20 on 8th December. Recorded from other locations generally during the periods late March – early May and again from September to mid October. Most reports were of 1 bird though 4–6 on 5 occasions with 7 at Wath Ings on 13th April; 7 at Pugney's on 16th May; 7 over Thrybergh Res. on 5th June and 7 southwest over Bradford on 30th August.

Recorded during every month in V.C. 64 from 23 locations, usually 1–2 birds with higher counts of 16 over Fairburn Ings on 13th April; 8 at Gouthwaite Res. on 7th December and 6 at Malham Tarn on 12th April. In V.C. 65, 42 at Bolton-on-Swale on 29th January with 33 there on 12th December; at Thornton Steward, 19 on 14th February and 12 on 20th December with up to 4 at Leighton Res. on several days.

Birds showing the characteristics of the race *P.c sinensis* were reported from Flamborough on 19th April; Filey on 22nd April; Hornsea on 21st February; 22nd February with 2 on 9th and 12th March; 1 on 14th; 20th and 25th; 2 on 16th and 4 on 14th. 2 on 5th April with 1 on 15th. From Bempton with 3 on 10th March; Tophill Low Res. on 11th April. Stone Creek on 21st March; Spurn during April on 11th; 13th; 16th and 18th. Wath Ings on 29th March; Blackmoorfoot Res. on 8th April and regularly from Fairburn Ings during April.

**Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis***

16 occupied nests at Bempton (RSPB).

Counts at Flamborough average during the early months but high towards the end with 456 on 10th January; smaller numbers then reported during February with 102 on 8th and 88 on 11th; 65 on 8th March and 24 on 4th April. Autumn passage commenced in early July with 93 on 11th; 158 on 18th and 168 on 25th; highest counts during August being 294 on 12th with 150 on 30th whilst in September 339 on 6th; 383 on 21st thence 766 on 27th, 537 on 4th October; 612 on 9th; 642 on 21st decreasing slightly towards the end of the month. 641 on 3rd November; 608 on 7th; 810 on 8th and 1100 on 15th (the second highest count for Yorkshire); 881 on 21st, 930 on 5th December with 488 on 28th and 922 on 30th.

Numbers far lower at Filey with 43 on 31st January as the peak count of the year.

More frequently off Hornsea though only 1-4 birds being involved whilst Spurn recorded 1-3 normally though 12 on 24th October with 14 on 25th; 11 on 30th.

**Bittern *Botaurus stellaris***

2 at Hornsea Mere on 1st February otherwise all records concerned single birds. At Hornsea Mere on 17th January; 14th February; Tophill Low Res. on 11th February; Broomfleet Ponds on 13th (TAE). Blacktoft Sands on 20th and 30th January; 4th; 21st; 24th and 25th February and 16th March (AG *et al*); Oughtibridge on 25th January (KC) and near Eldwick on 22nd January (HC).

Fewer birds during the latter months; all singles; at Hornsea Mere on 9th; 17th; 18th and 22nd December (RSPB) and Pugney's on 11th December (MB).

**Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax***

A second summer bird at Swine (V.C. 61) on 28th April was present daily until 2nd May being joined by a first summer bird on 30th with one or other of these birds being present until 7th May (BR: TAE: CCS *et al*). The first summer individual then appeared at Easington Lagoons on 17th May (SE: RG *et al*) moving south to Kilnsea on 22nd where it resided until 31st (SED: SML *et al*).

An adult flew north along the coast, at Filey, before turning inland, on the afternoon of 1st May (MGR).

**Egret sp *Egretta sp***

An egret at Easington Lagoons on 28th June was submitted as Great White Egret but considered not 100 per cent proven on the evidence supplied to both the YNU and the British Birds Rarities Committee.

**Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea***

16 pairs bred in the Lower Derwent. A record year with approximately 20 nests at Scampston Lake at what would appear to be a rapidly expanding colony (BS and SP). These being the only reported heronries in V.C. 61. 2 heronries in V.C. 62; at Sleightholmedale with 10 occupied nests and Mowthorpe with 6. In V.C. 63, 5 locations, with 10 nests at Wentworth though only 12 young reared there; Bretton Park, with 5 nests, 4 of which raised 15 young and at 3 locations in the Sheffield area where a single nest at each raised 2, 3 and 4 young respectively. In V.C. 64 not all heronries were counted but 4 of the 5 monitored showed an increase. 22 pairs bred at Dob Park; 17 at Dacre Banks; 10 at North Stainley and 5 at Askwith. No information received concerning the 2 heronries in V.C. 65.

Numbers away from Scampston, in V.C. 61, were low with this species becoming very rare at Hornsea Mere with 1 bird reported on only 3 days during the year. 7 at Sunk Island being the highest count. In V.C. 62, 21 reported from Ellerburn on 28th January with 15 there on 28th June whilst in V.C. 63 high counts away from breeding locations were 22 at Wath Ings on 15th July; 13 at Edderthorpe on 7th July whilst Blacktoft reported birds during most of the year with high counts of 22 on 2nd October and 18

on 4th October. 11 roosting in Haw Park on 4th September. 18 at Gouthwaite on 1st November and 16 at Fairburn Ings on 12th July being the maxima reported from V.C. 64.

#### **Purple Heron** *Ardea purpurea*

A single bird flew into the Dams Reserve at Filey on 18th April and remained until the following afternoon. The second record for this location (PJD: SC: HJW: IR *et al*).

#### **White Stork** *Ciconia ciconia*

1 at Stone Creek on 29th March (SML) and 1 south offshore at Spurn on 11th May, this the second record for the Observatory. 1 seen feeding in a field for an hour at Broomfleet on 11th July was observed to fly off southwestwards and later reported flying south over Blacktoft Sands Reserve (TAE: AG).

#### **Spoonbill** *Platalea leucorodia*

3 records from Bempton RSPB Reserve: 1 south on 17th April; 2 south on the 19th and 1 south on the 25th (PPh; per RSPB). An adult present at Blacktoft Reserve from 13th June until 23rd August (AG *et al*).

#### **Mute Swan** *Cygnus olor*

Very thinly distributed as a breeding species in V.C. 61 with 3 pairs at Hornsea Mere rearing 11 young; 3 pairs at Tophill Low Res. rearing 10 young and 'bred successfully at Faxfleet' – no further details being to hand. The only breeding report from V.C. 62 was at Keld Head near Pickering where a single pair reared 4 young. In V.C. 63, no more than 7 pairs bred successfully whilst at least 8 failed owing to a variety of reasons. V.C. 64 reported an improvement in the breeding situation with 22 pairs rearing over 80 young; Fairburn Ings holding 11 pairs which raised 40 young. 2 pairs bred in V.C. 65; 1 at Bolton-on-Swale and the other at Scorton Quarry.

The Hornsea Mere moulting flock numbered 126 on 15th July with 147 present on that day including breeding birds and young. This decreased to 144 by 27th August thence to 54 on 10th October. Numbers then increased to 72 during November and 62 in December. The other large moult flock at Fairburn Ings numbered 145 on 30th June; 172 on 21st July and 254 on 13th August (this would appear to be the highest number ever reported on any water in Yorkshire). Other high counts being 52 at Swillington Ings on 5th September; 42 on the River Dearne at Edderthorpe on 2nd and 22nd October with up to 41 there until the end of the year; 32 at Wintersett Res. on 12th December; 27 at Bolton-on-Swale during mid September with 20 or more at Tophill Low Res.; Easington Lagoons; Mickletown Ings and Blacktoft Sands.

#### **Bewick's Swan** *Cygnus columbianus*

Largest numbers reported were along the Lower Derwent/Pocklington Canal area with monthly maxima of 148 in January; 136 in February; 106 in March decreasing to 46 on 21st after which none until a juvenile on 17th April and an adult from 25th to 27th. 2 adults at Bubwith on 25th October the first to return increasing to 23 on 3rd November with 27 on 12th December but only 9 at end of year.

32 flew west over West Tanfield on 12th April; 11 over Ardsley Res. on 11th January with 12 at Fairburn Ings on the same day, and may have included these birds. 7 at Tophill Low Res. on 10th and 11th January with 5–8 present on the carrs to the east of the River Hull near Tophill during most of February. 1–6 birds at 9 other locations during the early months of the year with the last at Leventhorpe (Leeds) on 5th April moving to Fairburn and remaining until 29th.

Slightly more widely distributed during the latter months of the year with 12 at Tophill Low Res. on 8th November; 1–3 there during mid December and 5 south on 22nd. V.C. 63 reported 1–3 birds at 8 locations with 6 southwest over Ardsley Res. on 7th October; 12 west at Worsborough on 9th November; 13 west at Blacktoft on 3rd December. 5 at both Wath Ings and Worsborough on 11th November and 4 at Wath Ings on 2nd;

Blackmoorfoot Res. on 7th and Blacktoft Sands from 15th until 30th December. One of two birds at Edderthorpe on 4th December had an all black bill. 13 at Bolton-on-Swale on 21st November with 1-6 birds at 5 locations in V.C. 64.

#### **Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus***

Monthly maxima on the Lower Derwent of 55 in January; 17 in February and 50 in March with 35 at Thorganby on 17th as the last. Otherwise small numbers in V.C. 61, usually 1-3 birds involved though 5 in off the sea at Filey on 17th January possibly being the 5 which appeared at Tophill Low Res. the same day remaining until 4th February. 7-8 here on several days during February from 14th with 6 on 8th March. 13 at Cherry Cob on 2nd February; 12 there on 15th with 13 north over Burstwick on 1st March. 1-4 occasionally at Easington Lagoons; Fisherman's Channel; Flamborough and Paull during February-April.

In V.C. 63; 6 at Wintersett Res. on 2nd January with 7 at Blacktoft on 4th; 18 south at Thrybergh Res. on 11th. 8 at Worsborough on 3rd April with 19 west over Huddersfield on the same day. Up to 19 at Edderthorpe during January with 13 there during February and March; 28 at Wombwell Ings on 9th January though generally 14-18 during the rest of the month; 24 on 5th February and 9-22 until late March.

Fairburn Ings, in V.C. 64, had a peak count of 105 on 11th January decreasing to 50 by April with an influx on 12th of 102 and the last being 2 on 22nd. Elsewhere in V.C. 64, up to 16 were reported from some 21 locations with 30 over Leeds on 3rd April.

Bolton-on-Swale had a peak of 24 on 3rd January with 6 at Thornton Steward on 22nd.

During the latter months, 9 west at Blacktoft on 26th September were the first with 2 at Knotford Nook on 1st October thence an influx into V.C. 61 on 11th with 6 on the Lower Derwent; 2 at Spurn; 2 at Tophill Low Res. and 4 at Sunk Island. Fairburn Ings also reported their first on this date after which a slow build up to 46 on 28th November remaining until the end of the year. In the Lower Derwent small parties were recorded passing through until early November after which wintering birds were present with 20 at Bubwith on 25th November increasing to 41 by December and into 1988. Up to 11 at Edderthorpe during December with 20 at Wombwell Ings on 25th. The flock at Bolton-on-Swale had increased to 20 by 21st November.

#### **Bean Goose *Anser fabilis***

5 northeast at Spurn, the second record for the Observatory, were also reported at Kilnsea the same day (NAB). 9 present near Ingbirchworth from 27th to 31st December (CB *et al*). Adult at Knotford Nook on 6th January (PJC) with 1 at Wheldrake Ings on 27th February (GO). 3 at Bolton-on-Swale on 18th; 21st and 25th February with 3 at Stapleton on 4th March. 2 adults and 3 immatures at Wheldrake Ings on 10th December (TED) with 2 on 22nd and 3 on 29th which were considered to be different birds (RSS).

#### **Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus***

No reports received from the Humber Wildfowl Refuge. Few large parties reported from V.C. 61 with 50 over the Lower Derwent on 2nd January; 45 on 20th and 50 on 24th as the highest counts. 26 north at Spurn on 22nd March. 158 at Blacktoft (V.C. 63) on 28th January flying towards Lincolnshire with c200 over Hallam Moors on 22nd April and c100 over Newhouses on 12th January.

During the latter months more widespread with 51 southwest over Thrybergh on 17th September thereafter 145 at Blacktoft flying to Lincolnshire on 27th and c250 feeding on stubble at Broomfleet on 28th. 155 west of Blacktoft on 29th. On 24th and 25th October movement was noted with 700 southeast at Redmires Res. and 116 southeast at Thrybergh on 24th whilst on 25th, 111 and 400 over Blackmoorfoot Res. and 500 east at Wintersett Res. In November, 160 south at Wintersett Res. on 11th; 244 northwest at Carlton Marsh on 14th; 123 northeast at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 18th. Between 14th and 18th, 2014 flew east through the Sheffield area with 857 in various directions on 28th and 29th. In December, 100 south over Doncaster on 7th; 120 over

Worsborough on 12th; 737 over Sheffield between 29th and 31st with 220 east at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 30th and 115 at Wintersett Res.; 650 over Carlton Marsh and 200 over Blacktoft towards Lincolnshire. Few large skeins in V.C. 64 or 65 with 110 over Leighton Res. on 14th November and 120 there on 20th.

#### **White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons***

2 at Flamborough on 4th and 8th January with 2 at Hornsea Mere on 8th April. Singles at Hornsea Mere on 31st January and on 4 days in February. 15 at Sunk Island on 21st and 22nd November whilst 22 at Filey on 5th December increased to 23 the following day. 14 south there on 7th with 17 at Hornsea Mere on 10th when 13 arrived at Flamborough remaining until 15th. 3 at Hornsea Mere on 13th with 15 at Stone Creek increasing to 37 on 15th. 7 at Hornsea Mere on 18th with 30 at Stone Creek; 12 at the Mere on 20th; 11 there on 25th with 6 north at Filey on 29th. Inland in V.C. 61, 1 at Tophill Low Res. on 14th February; 2 on 12th December and 1 on 17th. Wheldrake Ings had 2 from 24th to 27th January with 5 on 5th December, 1 remaining until the 30th. Singles at Castle Howard on 5th January and 2nd February. Single at Angler's Lake from 6th to 13th February with 5 west at Blacktoft Sands on 8th December.

In V.C. 64, singles at Ripon Parks on 24th January and Ripley Castle on 15th February and 15th March. 5 north over Tadcaster on 26th November; 7 in the Ribble Valley on 4th December; 1 at Gallaber on 5th December; 23 over Farnham on 6th December with 1 at Hay-a-Park on 9th being seen at Staveley on 10th and 12th.

Addition to 1986 Report: single of the Greenland race *A.a. flavirostris* at Bolton-on-Swale from 4th January to 16th April (DBt).

#### **Grey Lag Goose *Anser anser***

Continues to increase in V.C. 61 with breeding at Hornsea Mere; Rise Park; Tophill Low Res.; East Park, Hull; Burton Constable; Lower Derwent Ings; Catwick; Broomfleet Ponds and Winestead. Large numbers at Hornsea Mere with 215 on 10th January; 108 on 31st January; up to 100 during March; 80 in April; 165 on 9th May included 57 goslings; 237 on 30th with 360 on 10th June. Up to 405 in July; 740 on 18th September; up to 270 in October; 420 on 21st November with c700 on 29th and 315 in December. Tophill Low Res. had a record count of 650 on 2nd September though 235 on 6th September was the next highest count. 30 pairs bred in the Lower Derwent with counts of 460 in January; 300 in February decreasing to 40 in April and 30 in May. 78 in June increasing to 148 in July; 210 in August; 240 in September with 389 in November as the peak in the latter months. Bred at Castle Howard with 11 young on 24th June and counts of 174 in March; 200 in April; 131 in October; 89 in November and 177 in December.

Birds were prospecting at Blacktoft though did not breed but successful breeding occurred at nearby Saltmarsh Delph. Nosterfield reported 188 in August with 159 during September; 163 in October and 172 in November. 86 at Staveley during September; 82 at Ripley Park in January. Other large counts being 70 over Knaresborough on 13th January; 33 at Eccup Res. on 17th January; 56 there on 13th December and 31 over Harrogate on 31st January.

In V.C. 65 a single pair bred at Bolton-on-Swale with peak counts of 575 on 25th January; the main flock dispersing in mid April reappearing at the end of July with a peak of 305 on 10th December.

#### **Snow Goose *Anser caerulescens***

Up to 10 at the usual locations in the Harrogate area with 13 at Nosterfield on 15th September. 1-2 birds of both phases at 4 locations in the north Leeds area during the winter months. 1 at Wheldrake Ings on 21st June; 1 at Blacktoft on 14th May. 2 at Leighton Res. on 13th December; at Angler's and Pugney's on both 21st and 22nd November with 3 at Pugney's on 16th and 18th.

**Canada Goose *Branta canadensis***

Coastal passage noted from both Flamborough and Filey. At Filey, 3 parties totalling 48 birds north on 30th May and 291 mainly north on 6th June with a further 61 at the Dams Reserve. Flamborough reported 15 on both 30th May and 31st with 54 on 6th June. Bred at Hornsea Mere; Rise Park; Catwick and East Park, Hull, in V.C. 61 with counts at Hornsea Mere of up to 130 in January; below 100 until June with a high count of 650 on 10th thence decreasing to 115 in July; 270 in October; 295 in November and 315 in December. In the west of this V.C. bred along the Lower Derwent and the Pocklington Canal with monthly maxima of 450 in January; 662 in February; March 350; April 26; May 10; June 35; July 52; August 130; September 129; October 229; November 315 and December 280. The high count of February being attributable to surrounding areas being frozen.

Not reported as breeding at Castle Howard in V.C. 62 where counts of 160 in March; 20 in April; 28 in August; 108 in October and 149 in December, were recorded.

Reported as continuing to colonise the upland reservoirs in V.C. 63 with breeding at 7 locations in the Halifax/Keighley area as well as 1 each near Huddersfield and Sheffield. Large numbers reported near Wakefield with 325 at Pugney's on 18th January; 323 at Bretton Park on 14th February; 420 at Pugney's on 6th/7th September with 334 on 17th October; 320 at Angler's Lake on 28th October; 350 on 3rd November and 272 in December. The main wintering area in the Sheffield area being the Rother Valley C.P. with 360 on 21st January and 410 on 18th October. 200 at Harthill Res. on 12th October.

90 pairs raised at least 355 young to the flying stage in V.C. 64 with peak counts of 639 at Staveley during September; 650 at Farnham during January; 630 at Eccup Res. on 30th September; 651 at Harewood on 18th October and 550 at Fairburn Ings during September.

Bred at Roundhill Res. in V.C. 65 with possible breeding at Middleham. High counts in this V.C. being 624 at Nosterfield during September with up to 500 on the River Ure at Spennithorne during January and February; 420 at Masham G.P. during October and 322 at Leighton Res. on 22nd October.

A single bird showing the characteristics of the race *B.c. minima* was present at Eccup Res. from 12th to 22nd and again on 31st January; 1st and 3rd February. A small bird at Wheldrake Ings on 3rd January was considered to be of another race and not *B.c. minima* (possibly *B.c. parvipes* or *B.c. hutchinsi*) (RSS)

**Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis***

Bred at Hornsea Mere and Bretton Park with 1 gosling at each. The winter flock at Hornsea Mere peaked at 98 on 31st January with 74 there on 14th March after which numbers decreased to 3 on 8th April though 20 were present on 10th June. 105 had returned by 17th October with maxima of 121 on 11th November and 116 on 27th December (JESW: GRB: RSPB). On 5th May, 45+ flew north inshore at Spurn at 0545 with 85+ south at 0648 the same day. 35 circled the Lower Derwent on 24th October and may have been wild birds.

Apart from the breeding birds at Bretton Park up to 7 reported there during the early months with 10 on 12th April and 5 in the latter months. 2 birds at 4 locations in the Bradford area in early spring with 5-6 at both Pugney's and Wintersett Res. from September to the end of the year. In V.C. 64, up to 9 birds at 11 locations in the Harrogate area and up to 7 though normally 5 at 4 locations in the Leeds area. 1-3 at Fairburn Ings in January with 2 there from late April to June. 1-2 at 4 locations in V.C. 65 with 3 at Masham G.P. on 25th October.

On 29th September c100 flew west over Blacktoft with 11 at Fly Flatts Res. and 8 at Bolton-on-Swale.

### Brent Goose *Branta bernicla*

Daily on the Humber at Spurn until 24th April with the exception of 5 days in January (severe weather); 1 day in February; 2 in March and 1 in April. The last being recorded 9th/10th May. Although the maximum count was lower than for 1986 the overall numbers were slightly higher. Usually 100+ during January with 180 on 7th; 190 on 22nd and 217 on 28th; 200+ on 11 days of February with 286 on 27th – the highest count of the early months. Numbers decreased quickly into March with up to 120 on several days early in this month and 200+ on 14th though normally below 100 and down to 19 by 31st. Less than 30 in April with 4 until 24th. The first of the autumn arrived on 25th September thence daily excepting 2 days in October; 4 in November and 5 in December. 23 present on 30th September slowly increasing to 72 on 17th October thereafter fluctuating between 70 and 150 but up to 240 at the end of this month. Variable numbers throughout November with high counts of 238 on 1st and 255 on 10th. Lower counts in December, usually low double to treble figures with an increase from mid month to between 124 and 241. Sample counts during these latter months indicated that this species had an extremely poor breeding season with no first year birds present out of 24 on 1st October; 5 out of 240 on 30th October; 2 out of 70 on 1st November and none out of 124 on 11th December.

Off-shore movement noted at Spurn during the autumn with 330 passing south on 9 days in November, mainly on 5th when 289 were recorded; 150 passing that same day. Smaller numbers reported along the coast with 14 at Fraisthorpe on 7th January and 11 at Filey and 16 at Flamborough that same day. 19 north off Scarborough on 6th. Along the Humber 13 at Sunk Island on 21st February with 9 on 28th and 10 on 1st March; Cherry Cobb had 7 on 8th and 15th February with 10 on 22nd. The only birds reported away from the coast being at Blacktoft with 1 on 8th February; 26th May and 2 on 22nd November; Wath Ings reporting 1 from 11th to 20th April and nearby Wombwell 1 on the following 2 days.

More pale breasted birds of the race *B.b. hrota* were reported than for many years with 6 at Filey on 7th January; Flamborough having 11 this day. 30 at Spurn from 18th to 22nd with 30 at Fraisthorpe on 24th when 33 were reported from Kilnsea with 42 there on 27th increasing to 44 on 9th February and 45 on 11th. 16 there on 5th March with 18 on 10th. 5–6 at Flamborough during the last week of January. 2 at Cherry Cobb on 11th January with 1 at Stone Creek on 17th. 5 at Flamborough on 25th November; 1 at Spurn on 2nd November and 4 at Kilnsea on 19th December.

A single bird of this race at Pugney's G.P. on 25th and 26th January.

### Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiacus*

2 at Leventhorpe Hall, Leeds from 18th March to 5th April and probably the same birds at Otley G.P. from 4th June to 1st September. Singles at Bretton Park from 14th to 22nd February; flying southwest over Redmires Res. with Canada Geese on 22nd February; at Lister Park, Bradford on 28th March and 2nd April and at Baildon on 27th May. Published with the escape proviso.

### Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*

Breeding along the Humber at Stone Creek/Paull areas; at Blacktoft Sands and Faxfleet reported as poor. A similar comment received from the Lower Derwent. 2 pairs at Tophill Low Res.; 1 at Everthorpe, 2 at Nosterfield; 5 at Masham G.P.; 2 at Bolton-on-Swale whilst 2 attempted to breed along the River Ribble. Good numbers on the Humber between Stone Creek and Paull during the early months with 930 on 25th January; 1010 on 15th February; 630 on 29th March thereafter 486 on 24th April; 410 on 10th May and 211 on 13th June. Increased during early July reaching 995 on 19th including a moulting flock of 184. 2100 present on 16th August with a moulting flock of 400 thence a rapid decrease to 285 by 20th September with 280 on 4th October then increasing to 1050 by 13th December. 161 at Sunk Island on 10th January; 202 on 7th February; 80 on 21st March and 40 on 20th April. By early July birds were reported departing to the east with 82 noted on 4th and 31 on 25th whilst at Spurn 332 flew east

there on 18th with a further 360 flying south off-shore. 164 on the Humber there on 19th with 453 on 21st. Blacktoft also reported easterly passage from 30th June with 236 during the following month of which 149 were counted on the 23rd July; 35 east at Wakefield; 57 in 3 flocks over Wath Ings; 90 in 3 flocks over Blackmoorfoot Res.; 38 at Fairburn Ings and 45 at Eccup Res. all on this day. Westerly passage at Blacktoft during September with 32 on 18th September. 39 also west there on 19th October. 150 flying west over Angler's Lake on 29th September.

515 flew west at Blacktoft during the cold weather of 11th to 23rd January with 325 on 11th and 90 on 15th whilst at Filey 250 flew north on 10th and 212 likewise at Flamborough.

#### **Wood Duck *Aix sponsa***

Single bird at Blackmoorfoot Res. between 26th April and 17th May. Published with the escape proviso.

#### **Mandarin Duck *Aix galericulata***

Single males reported from Wentworth Lakes from January to the end of June and again from November to the end of the year; at Leighton Res. on 28th February 1st; 4th and 11th March; from Blackmoorfoot Res. on 1st and 2nd April; Welton Water on 14th April. 2 males at Royd Moor Res. on 9th September. Females at Roundhay Park, Leeds on 20th April; Newburgh on 7th May; Wheldrake Ings on 4th July; Newburgh on 9th August and the Nidd Gorge from 3rd October to 7th November. All published with the escape proviso.

#### **Wigeon *Anas penelope***

Bred at Grimwith Res. with 7 broods totalling 31 on 24th June. 2 females with young reported at Summerlodge Tarn on 16th June and 9 pairs during the summer on the Lower Derwent though no positive breeding proof obtained. Excellent numbers along the Lower Derwent/Pocklington Canal with 6300 in January; 6100 in February; 5500 during March; 1250 in April; 1000 in October; 5000 in November and 5000 during December. Maxima at Hornsea Mere being 820 on 24th January; 860 on 25th; 720 on 21st February and up to 675 during December. Tophill Low Res. reported 1230 in January; 1270 in February; 632 in March; 171 in October; 300 in November and 900 in December. 107 at Fairburn Ings during January with 214 in October and 113 in November. 970 at Bolton-on-Swale on 25th January with 856 on 12th December. 215 at Thornton Steward on 20th January; 150+ at the Rother Valley C.P. on 4th January and 122 there on 28th; 123 on 12th December. Angler's Lake reported 124 on 24th January; 146 on 28th February; 153 on 11th March and 129 on 25th December.

At the mouth of the River Trent at Blacktoft 1120 were reported on 11th January increasing to 2200 on 19th but down to 320 by the end of that month. 162 at Cherry Cobb on 17th January with 213 on 15th February and 332 on 15th March.

Heavy westerly passage along the Humber on 11th October reported from Sunk Island with 1075 birds being counted though only 180 west at Cherry Cobb and 114 at Blacktoft. 143 west at Blacktoft on 21st October and 212 on 10th October. Coastal passage peaks were 422 at Flamborough on 29th September and 146 the following day; 187 on 19th October; 83 on 10th November and 57 on 11th; 219 south at Spurn on 19th October with 197 south on 21st and 229 south on 11th November.

#### **Gadwell *Anas strepera***

At least 9 pairs considered to have bred along the Lower Derwent Ings and Pocklington Canal; 3 pairs at Fairburn Ings and 2 at Tophill Low Res. Hornsea Mere held the highest number with 40 on 25th January increasing to 60 by 14th February and 106 on 21st then decreasing to 30 on 14th March though a small peak of 60 on 5th April. Few during early May but increasing to 38 by 30th; 42 on 14th June; 215 on 19th September; 160 on 10th October and 281 on 15th November (the highest count ever recorded in Yorkshire). 26 at Fairburn on 9th January; 31 on 21st March thereafter 16 to July

increasing to 95 during September with 144 on 11th October and 123 on 16th. Tophill Low Res. had monthly maxima of 67 in January; 19 in February; 18 in March with 18-27 from April to August thence 42 during September; 32 in October; 37 in November and 103 in December. Other counts being 14 at Blacktoft on 10th October with 15 there on 17th November; 16 on the Lower Derwent on 20th December with 19 on 31st. 5 at Bolton-on-Swale from 6th August to end of year where this species is far from common. 6 in the centre of Driffield on 1st February.

#### **Teal** *Anas crecca*

10 pairs bred along the Lower Derwent with single pairs at Skipwith Common and Crook Moor, Skipwith; in V.C. 63, 2 pairs at Redmires Res. whilst bred at 5 locations in V.C. 64 with 40 young being raised at Gouthwaite Res. and 14 at John O'Gaunts Res. 2 pairs at Roundhill Res, in V.C. 65.

A return to more normal numbers along the Lower Derwent with 1300 during January; 3620 in February; 3200 in March; 1000 in April; 300 during September; 730 in October; 1800 in November and 1500 during December. 1550 at Blacktoft on 23rd October with up to 625 there during November and 320 in December. Hornsea Mere held very low numbers with 130 on 25th January; 60 on 21st February; 34 on 28th March, up to 100 during October; 74 in November and 115 in December whilst nearby Tophill Low Res. had 610 in January; 425 during February; 200 in March; 300 in August; 262 in September; 285 in October with 190 in November and 300 during December. Other locations to hold large numbers were Fairburn Ings with 420 on 22nd February and 339 on 12th December; Gouthwaite Res. with 216 during February and 357 in November. Over 200 during at least 1 month of the year at Carlton Marsh; Wath Ings and Angler's with 100+ at Old Denaby; Aldwarke S.F.; Pugney's; Rother Valley C.P. and Newmillerdam.

A single male of the North American race *A.c. carolinensis*, known colloquially as Green-winged Teal, was reported from Thorpe Marsh, Doncaster on 11th March (PS: JW).

#### **Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos*

At least 300 pairs bred in the Lower Derwent/Pocklington Canal where numbers during the winter were reported to be slightly down with maxima of 3000 in January; 2850 in February; 2600 in March down to 600 by April. Increase in numbers from end of July with 300 on 31st; 400 during August; 750 in September; 600 during October with 2200 in November and 2800 in December. Cherry Cobb Sands held 2350 on 3rd January; 1580 on 15th February decreasing to 480 by end of March; 270 on 16th August increased to 1490 by 13th September but 686 on 4th October thence 1720 on 1st November with 2900 on 13th December. 1380 at Sunk Island on 24th October; 1266 on 1st November with 1100 on 7th. 1250 at Blacktoft Sands on 31st August with 1450 on 4th September. Tophill Low Res. had 1549 in January; 1500 in February; 920 in March with 920 in September; 2000 during October; 1560 in November and 2312 in December. 1850 at Hornsea Mere during the last week of January with 1130 on 21st February.

Nowhere in V.C. 62 or 63 held more than 1000 birds but Pugney's had 901 on 18th January and 829 on 1st February with Wath Ings holding 768 on 24th September. Fairburn Ings, in V.C. 64, had 1843 on 9th January and 1410 on 12th December with 1084 at Eccup Res. on 25th January and 1140 on 9th December. In V.C. 65, Bolton-on-Swale had 1150 on 3rd January with 1610 on 11th September and Leighton Res., 860 on 31st January and 1450 on 13th December.

Many other locations reported counts of more than 250 during at least 1 month of the year.

#### **Pintail** *Anas acuta*

Numbers throughout the county generally low with the exception of 78 on the Lower Derwent on 15th March and up to 28 during January and 36 in February. 46 were recorded in the Ribble valley on 19th October of which 36 later flew off northwest. Cherry Cobb/Sunk Island recorded only small numbers with 9 at Cherry Cobb on 17th

January; 16 at Sunk Island on 11th. 22 at Cherry Cobb on 22nd February with 21 on 15th March; 16 there on 4th October. Passage along the Humber noted from Sunk Island with 59 to the west on 11th October and 26 west on 22nd November. Further inland, at Blacktoft, 167 flew west during the period 3rd September to 4th November with peak days of 35 on 3rd September; 35 on 16th; in October, 27 on 20th and 22 on 21st with 15 on 3rd November and 12 on 4th. 24 south at Spurn on 18th October.

12 west over Thrybergh Res. on 9th September; 11 at Bolton-on-Swale on 16th September with 9 at Wath Ings on 23rd whilst 7 flew south at Redmires Res. on 24th.

#### **Garganey *Anas querquedula***

A pair reared 3 young at a location in the Sheffield area with a second pair also present.

Tophill Low Res. had 1 male and 2 females on 16th April with a pair until the 22nd and another pair on 27th. 2 birds at Flamborough on 23rd May and Filey on the same date; 2 south at Hornsea on 14th July and Spurn on 28th August. Single birds reported also from Flamborough; Filey; Tophill Low Res. and Hornsea Mere. A very poor year along the Lower Derwent with 1 on 15th March; 2 from 11th to 17th April and 1 on 28th June. Wath Ings, however, had a good year with a single female on 23rd March remaining into April, 1 on 3 days in May and 5 days in early June; 2 on 10th June with 3 on 13th/14th and 18th June; up to 2 during July with 2-3 in August but 4 from 23rd to 27th after which 1-2 until 16th September. Single birds at Edderthorpe on 27th April; Royd Moor Res. on 23rd September; Blacktoft Sands from 28th April to 5th May, 4th to 6th June and 21st September. 2 at Fairburn Ings on 24th May with 1 from 23rd March to 5th April during mid May and a female from the end of July to 26th September.

#### **Shoveler *Anas clypeata***

A good breeding season in the Lower Derwent/Pocklington Canal area where probably 60 pairs bred. Otherwise, many locations reported a poorer year with confirmed breeding at Blacktoft Sands; Aldwarke S.F.; Broomhill Flash/Wombwell Ings; Fairburn Ings and Staveley. Counts from favoured locations were, up to 200 at Tophill Low Res. in January; 171 in September; 128 in October and 100 during November; Hornsea Mere held small numbers during the early months; up to 73 in October; 91 in November and 85 in December. 52 at Blacktoft Sands on 30th August with 62 on 23rd September and 82 on 10th October after which 42 during November. 54 at Wath Ings on 5th September. Fairburn Ings reported 95 on 10th January with 125 on 18th October and 80 on 7th November; 76 at Swillington Ings on 28th September with 60 on 5th October. 33 at Bolton-on-Swale on 16th September.

#### **Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina***

Single male at Blacktoft on 10th September (AG). In V.C. 65 at least 4 different females reported with 2 at Thornton Steward Res. from the start of the year until 11th February and again on 20th March. 1 at Leighton Res. on several days during January and February with 1 at Bolton-on-Swale from 1st March until 3rd May. The origin of these birds must remain doubtful.

The male hybrid reported from Tophill Low Res. at various times during the past 3 years was again recorded this year on 4th January.

#### **Pochard *Aythya ferina***

8 pairs along the Lower Derwent/Pocklington Canal of which 4 bred successfully. 2 pairs at Tophill Low Res.; 1 pair at both Faxfleet and Broomfleet with probably 10 pairs at Blacktoft being flooded out after which 6 pairs re-laid. 1 pair at Newmillerdam; 2 at Altoft Ings; 3 at Fairburn with 1 each at Allerton Bywater and Mickletown Ings.

Peak counts at favoured waters in V.C. 61 being 225 in early January at Hornsea Mere decreasing to 18 on 24th with the onset of severe weather; 438 on 21st February with monthly maximum of 510; 408 during March. Less than 40 until September thence 410 on 19th; 960 during October with 840 in November and 640 in December. Tophill

Low Res. reported 400 in January; 176 during February; 208 in March; 90 in October; 72 during November and 155 in December. 150 at Broomfleet during November. Wheldrake Ings reported 162 on 7th January with 200 on 28th; 245 on 14th February; 207 on 15th March but low numbers during the latter months with 70 on 13th December.

Highest counts reported from V.C. 63 being 260 in the Rother Valley C.P. on 15th November; 210 at Wintersett Res. on 10th September; 182 at Catcliffe Flash on 14th February and 177 at Thrybergh Res. on 16th January. Over 100 also reported from Pugney's in January. In V.C. 64 Fairburn Ings reported 897 on 21st February with 257 on 21st March; 200 during both August and September with 262 on 19th December. Mickletown Ings 304 on 24th February; 201 at Farnham on 19th November with 197 at Lowther Lake on 15th March and 152 at Swillington Ings on 15th February. 171 at Bolton-on-Swale was the highest count there.

Coastal passage reported with 32 south at Spurn on 25th January and on 11th November when 22 flew north at Hornsea with 33 also south there; 21 north at Spurn and 17 at Flamborough. On this same date 441 flew west at Blacktoft Sands. 37 at Flamborough on 19th October.

#### **Ring-necked Duck *Aythya collaris***

Single male at Allerton Bywater on 5th July (PJW) and across the river at Mickletown Ings on 7th (BT).

Single males at Fairburn Ings from 17th to 19th April (CCT: JGr) and at Catcliffe Flash from 17th July to 9th September and again on 23rd October. (MGF *et al*). These last 2 records still under consideration by the *British Birds Rarities Committee*.

#### **Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca***

Male in residence on East Park Lake, Hull from 23rd January to 19th March (BR *et al*). Male at Mickletown Ings from 23rd April to 6th May and again on 5th June and 7th July (BT). The same bird was reported from Allerton Bywater (across the river) on 5th July (PJW). Male at Fairburn Ings on 22nd November (CW).

All published with the escape proviso.

#### **Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula***

Good breeding seasons along the Lower Derwent/Pocklington Canal with up to 45 pairs; 12 pairs at Tophill Low Res. where also a good year. Bred at 21 waters in V.C. 63 where 39 broods totalled some 227 young though several other broods were not counted. Conversely V.C. 64 reported a poor year with 9 pairs at Fairburn Ings and few elsewhere. 14 pairs bred in V.C. 65, at 5 locations, good results being reported.

Few at Hornsea Mere during January with 60 as highest count but 397 on 21st February; up to 151 in March; 270 in April decreasing to 96 by the end of May. 106 on 14th June thence increase to 775 on 19th September; 730 on 10th October; 435 during November and 115 in December. Tophill Low Res. had monthly maxima of 861 in January; 750 in February; 400 in March; 410 on 17th July with 500 by 21st August; 415 in September; 573 in October; 362 in November and 577 during December. 110 along the Lower Derwent on 14th February with 170 on 15th March otherwise 100 at Broomfleet Ponds in February and 60 at Scampston Lake on 15th March were the only other records of more than 50.

In V.C. 63, 100+ were reported from the Rother Valley C.P. with 222 on 18th January; 185 at Thrybergh Res. on 21st January; 408 at Pugney's on 31st January; 427 on 1st February; 126 on 29th September; 154 on 1st October; 163 on 29th November and 295 on 13th December. Wintersett Res.; 254 on 22nd January; 297 on 18th October and 320 on 22nd.

Fairburn Ings, in V.C. 64, recorded 580 on 16th January; 454 on 15th February; 311 on 13th March; 355 on 11th October; 576 on 28th November and 483 on 12th December.

310 at Mickletown Ings on 24th February with 202 on 30th December whilst a further 6 locations held over 100 birds during at least 1 month of the year.

130 at Bolton-on-Swale 9th January and 175 on 19th August.

#### **Scaup *Aythya marila***

Poor year along the coast; 28 at Spurn Point on 13th December with 28 at Flamborough on 11th January and 41 there on 15th; 12 north off Hornsea on 3rd November; 11 in Jackson's Bay, Scarborough on 17th January. Smaller numbers, 1-5, at several other locations along the coast. Freshwater records were 4 at Hornsea Mere on 8th November; 6 at Angler's Lake, Wintersett on 15th December with 4 at Thrybergh Res. on 12th November; 6 there on 15th and 16th December. 1-3 at Wintersett Res.; Catcliffe Flash; Blackmoorfoot Res.; Ingbirchworth Res.; Altoft Ings; Leeshaw Res. and Scout Dyke Res. 1-4 birds reported from 7 locations in V.C. 64 during the periods January to April and September to December. V.C. 65 recorded a male at both Nosterfield and Masham G.P. on 10th June with 1 at Scorton Quarry between 15th March and 8th April. Female at Thornton Steward on 13th/14th November and possibly the same bird at both Scorton and Masham on 21st. This species being quite rare in V.C. 65.

Addition to 1986 Report: 1 at Leighton Res. between 23rd November and 28th December.

#### **Eider *Somateria mollissima***

Less than 10 at Spurn during the early months of the year. 55 at Flamborough on 15th January with 13 on 24th February. Northerly coastal passage recorded during October and November with the peak counts during the fourth week of November. Flamborough reported 104 on 24th; 378 on 25th (this being the highest documented daily total for Yorkshire); 143 on 26th with 45 on 3rd December and 22 on 6th. Spurn had 5 on 24th; 69 on 25th; 56 on 26th and 65 on 3rd December. Hornsea; 125 on 24th; 104 on 25th; 39 on 26th; 86 on 3rd December and 23 on 6th with 80 south there on 8th. Also on 25th, 35 at Barmston; 65 at Bridlington whilst on 15th December, 15 were at Barmston.

Away from the coast, 2 at Hull Docks on 20th and 30th January with 6 flying east at Cherry Cobb on 13th December. 7 on the Humber at Sunk Island on 6th December. Single female flew along the River Ouse at Blacktoft on 28th October.

#### **Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis***

Poor year generally with 1-2 birds at Spurn; Hornsea; Flamborough; Filey; Scarborough and Whitby. Reported on 6 days during the year at Spurn with 2 south on 27th October; Hornsea on 6 days with 2 on 3rd March and 24th November; Flamborough on 25 days with 5 on 10th November; 3 on 21st; 9 on 25th. 4 there on 12th December. Filey had 2 on 18th January and 28th December when 2 were also reported from Scarborough South Bay.

Inland single birds reported from Blacktoft Sands from 27th October to 6th November; at the Rother Valley C.P. on 4th November and Catcliffe Flash from 7th to 25th November.

#### **Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra***

A very large flock along the Holderness coast during the latter half of November with 1000 off Aldbrough on 14th; 700 there on 19th and 1600 on 21st; (AFJ: GRB: SML: BP *et al*) (this being the largest documented flock reported in Yorkshire this century). 600 off Hornsea on 22nd and 300 at Aldbrough on 25th. 1000 at Barmston on 28th (BR) with 700+ there on 30th (DW). Thereafter smaller counts during December with 150 at Aldbrough on 11th and 200 there from 18th to end of the year. 445 at Barmston on 24th January the highest count anywhere in the early months.

Coastal passage reported from Flamborough with 445 on 11th January; 110 on 17th and 88 on 7th February. 149 on 20th June with 170 on 5th July; 181 on 15th; regular

during August with 146 on 5th; 123 on 6th; 100 on 10th and 112 on 11th. More during November with 152 on 3rd; 383 on 5th; 150+ until 10th when 215 recorded; 239 on 21st and 212 on 22nd. Hornsea reported similar passage during this month with 105 south on 15th; 302 north on 21st; 114 north on 23rd; 367 north on 25th and 127 on 26th. Spurn recorded between 201 and 255 birds daily during this period whilst 539 were reported at Filey on 3rd, mainly flying north. 35 flew west along the Humber at Sunk Island on 14th with 169 west on 21st; 17 west on 22nd and 29 west on 29th.

Inland in V.C. 63, 1-3 birds reported from 10 locations with 4 at Wintersett Res. on 4th April; 18 at Angler's Lake on 3rd November; 10 at Redmires Res. on 5th April with 5 remaining until 7th; 5 at Thrybergh Res. on 5th April and 5 again on 2nd July. 7 at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 28th July. Very few reported from V.C. 64 with only 11 records of 1-4 birds at 6 locations though 9 at Fairburn Ings on 28th May and 9 over Horsforth, Leeds, on 1st August.

#### **Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca***

1-2 reported during the early months from Spurn; Hornsea; Barmston; Flamborough and Filey with higher numbers as follows; 7 at Barmston on 4th January and 6 on 7th (BR: KR); 4 at Flamborough on 10th; 10 on 11th; 3 on both 15th and 24th. 7 there on 7th February.

The first of the autumn was at Scarborough on 22nd July with 1 at Hornsea on 29th and 30th. 2 at Flamborough on 5th August; 8th and 26th September whilst 2 reported from Filey on 27th August. 1-3 at Spurn; Hornsea; Aldbrough and Barmston occasionally during the last 4 months of the year with 4 at Aldbrough on 21st November; 8 at Flamborough on 22nd and 5 each at Filey and Hornsea that day. 4 at Barmston on 28th.

1 off Sunk Island on 5th December (JW) with 1 at Tophill Low Res. on 23rd and 24th October (IF *et al*). Further inland 1 at Ardsley Res. on 10th January and 1 flying south along the River Trent at Blacktoft on 15th December. In V.C. 64 a male at Hay-a-Park between 10th February and 29th March was found to be injured and eventually died. 2 first summer males at Eccup Res. on 22nd July (ASB: RCH).

#### **Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula***

Numbers were low at Hornsea Mere during the severe weather of January with only 38 present on 25th increasing towards the end of the month with 96 on 31st. 166 on 21st February decreasing to 105 on 14th March thence 135 on 24th with 220 on 29th. This spring build up peaked at 432 on 5th April (GRB) rapidly falling to 230 by 10th after which few were reported though a first summer bird was present on 14th June. The first of the autumn was reported on 19th September though very few until late October; 160 on 21st November with 115 as the peak in December. Monthly maxima at Tophill Low Res. were 82 in January; 64 during February; 65 in March with 65 still present on 7th April decreasing to 8 on 5th May. Birds again summered here with 2 throughout June and 3 during most of July and August. 23 along the Lower Derwent/Pocklington Canal in January with 53 in February; 43 in March and 22 in April, the last being reported on 22nd. Up to 16 here during November and 13 in December. 46 at Catwick G.P. on 26th March with up to 20 from several other locations and summering birds at Burshill on 20th June and Broomfleet Ponds on 24th and 25th July.

Highest counts in V.C. 63 were from Pugney's with 48 on 25th January and 54 on 1st February; Wintersett Res. with between 50 and 57 in early January; 77 on 28th February with 84 on 8th March decreasing to 70 on 19th thence 40 to 50 in early April with the last 2 on 5th May. Reported summering birds from Redmires Res. on 7th June and another from 1st July until 28th August. Returning birds present at several locations from mid October; 22 at Wintersett Res. on 4th November with 42 on 20th December; 26 at Pugney's on 9th November and 23 on 3rd and 13th December.

In V.C. 64, the only locations to hold more than 30 birds were Fairburn Ings with 62 on 4th February; 131 on 25th March and 79 on 8th April and Eccup Res. with 53 on

17th January and 56 on 1st February. A female at Fairburn Ings on 23rd May with 1 at Knotford Nook on 30th; male at Gouthwaite Res. on 15th June; female at Chelker Res. on 19th July with a female at Fairburn from 29th onwards. 2 at Malham Tarn on 30th August were the first of the autumn with birds at many locations from late September.

Bolton-on-Swale was the only location in V.C. 65 to hold many birds with peaks there of 76 on 27th February and 35 on 19th December. Immature male at Leighton Res. on 31st May.

Light coastal passage with 31 off Flamborough on 10th January; 29 at Filey also on this day and 34 south there on 5th November. Along the Humber 54 flew west at Sunk Island on 21st November. 50 on the sea at Scalby Mills on 2nd February.

#### **Barrow's Goldeneye *Bucephala islandica***

A female was reported from the Lower Derwent at Wheldrake Ings from 2nd to 14th November (TB; TED; RSS; DW *et al*).

Published with the escape proviso.

#### **Smew *Mergus albellus***

Another good year with birds widespread during the early months. In January reported as follows; (*redheads* unless otherwise stated). Hornsea Mere; 1 on 7th; 1 male on 25th; 4 (2 males) on 31st (GRB; SML; RSPB); Burskill, 2 on 22nd (BS and SP); Catwick, 1 male on 24th; Brandesburton, 1 male on 26th and 27th with *redhead* also on 27th (DWC); Paull, 3 to east on 16th (SML); Tophill Low Res., 2 on 8th; 2 on 18th; 1 on 23rd/24th; 4 (1 male) on 30th and 31st: Wheldrake Ings; 9 (5 males) on 20th; 1 on 22nd; 2 on 26th and 1 on 27th/28th (PP; DW *et al*): Broomfleet Ponds, daily from the 3rd involving 8 different males and 8 different *redheads* (TAE): Went Ings, near Southfield Res., 3 on 5th and 2 from 6th–10th: Easington Lagoons, 1 from 17th to 5th February: Rother Valley C.P., male from 1st to 29th with 2 *redheads* from 24th to 29th: Blacktoft Sands, 5 on 3rd; 3 on 4th; 7 on 5th; 1 on 7th; with 1–2 from 17th to 30th (AG *et al*): Fairburn Ings, 1 from 10th to 4th February with 2 on 19th and male flying over on 14th: Knotford Nook, 1 from 1st to 27th February: Ben Rhydding, 1 throughout the month: Swinsty Res., 1 from 24th: Bolton-on-Swale, 2 on 21st with 1 from 25th until 11th March: Thrybergh Res., 1 on 23rd: Wintersett Res., 2 on 22nd: Pugney's 2 on 22nd: Barlow, male on 15th: Ross Carrs, 1 on 20th.

In February, in addition to those above remaining into this month, Hornsea Mere, 3 (1 male) on 1st; 3 (2 males) on 2nd; 3 (1 male) on 14th (GRB): Tophill Low Res., 2 on 1st; male on 14th, 1 on 19th: Wheldrake Ings, 4 (2 males) on 1st; 3 (1 male) on 3rd and 5th; 1 on 7th and 9th; 2 on 14th; 1 on 17th, 21st and 27th (DW *et al*): Hull, East Park, 1 on 2nd, 3rd and 7th (BR): Broomfleet, daily throughout the month involving at least 11 different males and 4 *redheads* (TAE): Rother Valley C.P., 1 from 8th to 22nd: Blacktoft Sands, 2 on 4th, 1 from 6th to 14th; 2 from 17th to 21st increasing to 8 by 1st March (AG *et al*): Eccup Res., 1 on 28th: Southfield Res., 4 from 7th to 9th:

March; Hornsea Mere, 4 (3 males) on 8th and 4 (2 males) on 14th: Wheldrake Ings, 1 on 12th/13th and 2 on 22nd: Broomfleet Ponds, daily until 19th involving at least 5 males and 7 *redheads* (TAE): Blacktoft Sands, 8 on 1st increasing to 14 (5 males) by 11th thence 4 on 15th, 3 on 19th (AG *et al*): Malham Tarn, 1 on 19th: Ross Carrs, 1 on 11th (TB).

Single male at Ingbirchworth Res. on 7th April with a *redhead* at Blacktoft Sands on 8th.

Fewer during the latter months with a male at Flamborough on 20th November. In December, 2 at Tophill Low Res. on 12th: Broomfleet Ponds with 1 from 12th to 31st (TAE): Blacktoft on 6th and 23rd/24th (AG): Fairburn Ings from 2nd to 31st: Knotford Nook, 2 (1 male) on 2nd; 2 on 3rd, 3 on 7th/8th and 2 from 9th to 31st: Eccup Res. 1 on 3rd: Otley G.P. on 6th and the River Wharfe near Manor Park on 13th.

### **Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator***

A single pair again bred at Redmires Res. having a brood of 8 on 13th June though none survived. Single pairs were present on the River Ribble and at Chelker Res. during the breeding season though both considered not to have bred.

Reported frequently along the coast with 1-5 birds usually involved but 6 at Flamborough on 3rd January with 7 on 10th and 6 on 11th. 6 there on 12th September; 6 on 27th with 10 on 28th, 7 on 19th November and 16 on 21st. 7 at Scalby Mills on 14th January, 11 at Spurn Point on 18th October with 6 north off Hornsea on 22nd November. 4 off Stone Creek, on the Humber, on 4th July whilst 3 were in Hull Docks on 19th March. Inland in V.C. 61, single birds were reported from Hornsea Mere on 14th March; Keyingham Pits on 25th January; Broomfleet Ponds on 7th November and Tophill Low Res. on 8th.

1 at Seamer Road Mere, Scarborough from 2nd to 5th February with 2 on 2nd March. In V.C. 63, 3 at Blacktoft on 14th February; 1 on 21st February; 5 east there on 2nd May with 4 east on 16th June. The Rother Valley C.P. reported 2 on 24th February with 2 at Redmires Res. on 13th April. Single birds at Ulley Res. on 2nd January; Wintersett Res. on 22nd remaining until 30th; Thrybergh Res. from 28th to 30th and Strines Res on 8th October.

1-2 birds reported from 6 locations in V.C. 64 during February and March and from September to December though 7 flew west at Fairburn Ings on 3rd October.

### **Goosander *Mergus merganser***

A survey along the Rivers Swale; Tees and Ure, in V.C. 65, produced 32 males and 47 *redheads*; the number of breeding pairs was not ascertained but at least 8 bred on the Swale with 57 young being counted. 4 broods reported along the Ure between Masham and Wensley with a total of 31 young. There is, regrettably, considerable evidence in some areas that young birds are being shot by conflicting interests though the species still enjoying good success despite this persecution. 6 broods were reported on the Ure in V.C. 64 though these may have included some of the aforementioned birds; at least 1 pair along the Ribble with 5 on the Wharfe including 1 near Pool – the most easterly on this river.

Very few reported from V.C. 61 with highest counts coming from the Lower Derwent where 23 on 25th January; 55 on 15th February and 64 on 8th March. 16 there on 9th December. Otherwise 9 at Tophill Low Res. on 11th and 31st January and 7th February was the highest number reported. 6 at Broomfleet Ponds on 7th February with 5 at Flamborough on 28th December and at Spurn on 11th November.

Small numbers also in V.C. 62 with 8 at Seamer Road Mere, Scarborough on 2nd February; 9 on 5th and 9th increasing to 11 on 11th; nowhere else recording more than 3 birds.

In V.C. 63 up to 26 at Blacktoft in January and 17 in mid March; 11 there on 4th December. 14 at Angler's on 26th January; 22 on 16th February, up to 23 in mid March with 14 on 3rd April. 20 at Southfield Res. on 18th February with 11 there on 4th December and 10 at Damflask Res. on 13th January.

Large counts from Eccup Res. with 6 days in January recording over 100 birds; the peak count of 201 on 24th being the second highest ever reported from Yorkshire; 92 there on 2nd March whilst Hay-a-Park had up to 106 in March and 84 in early April; up to 60 at Gouthwaite Res. in January with High Batts N.R. also holding over 60. In the latter months 46 at Eccup Res. on 9th December. Castle Howard reported 78 on 8th March with 38 on the Wharfe Ings on 15th April. 33 at Castle Howard on 6th December. Leighton Res. recorded 140 on 4th January with 60 on 13th December.

### **Ruddy Duck *Oxyura jamaicensis***

Continues to spread as a breeding species with success from 16 locations and birds present at several others during the summer.

Still rather scarce in V.C. 61 with no breeding and 7 at Tophill Low Res. during the early months as the most reported; 4 on the Lower Derwent on 9th May. Not reported

from V.C. 62. Bred in V.C. 63 at Southfield Res., 1 pair; Old Denaby, 2 pairs; Harthill Res., 1 pair; Altoft Ings, 2 pairs; Catcliffe Flash, 3 pairs; Newmillerdam, 1 pair; Worsborough Res., 1 pair. Other locations frequently reporting birds being Wintersett Res., up to 9; Wath Ings, up to 4; Rother Valley C.P. and Pugney's both with up to 4 and Wentworth Lakes with up to 3. 9 locations also reported 1-2 birds at some time during the year.

Continues to increase in V.C. 64 with an expansion noted away from the favoured locations, a total of 10 pairs bred at 5 locations rearing almost 50 young. 1-5 birds reported from 13 other locations outside the breeding season with 10 at Harewood Park on 18th October and up to 16 at Mickletown Ings during September.

Single birds at Bolton-on-Swale G.P. between 22nd and 24th August and from 14th to 16th September.

Addition to 1986 Report: 1 at Bolton-on-Swale on 17th May and 5th September.

#### **Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus***

1 flying southwest over Fairburn Ings on 16th April (JG *et al*) and 1 at High Batts N.R. on 13th September.

#### **Red Kite *Milvus milvus***

I found freshly dead near Easingwold on 1st April having been hit by a car (per D.Astley). 1 in Wensleydale on 22nd June (K. Good per DIF). 1 flying over Danby Moor on 20th October (DR) and another (or perhaps the same) killed by a car on Danby Moor on 11th December (Whitby Gazette; per BTF).

#### **Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus***

A good year in V.C. 61 with birds reported from Kilnsea/Spurn as follows: female off the sea on 8th April; 1 south on 18th (possibly the bird flying east at Sunk Island); 1 on 20th; 27th and 28th. In May, 4 on 2nd; 1 on 13th and 19th with 2 on 25th and 1 on 27th and 29th. Flamborough reported 2 on 2nd May with 1 on 9th; 27th; 30th and 31st. 3 on 6th and 7th June and 1 on 19th and 29th. Single birds at Filey on 29th April; 29th May and 19th June; at Tunstall on 2nd May; Sunk Island on 3rd; 18th and 23rd May; Grimston on 7th May; Seaton on 26th May; Hornsea Mere on 9th May and Pulsin Bog on 7th June whilst at nearby Tophill Low Res. 1 on 8 days from 8th was considered to be a different bird. The Lower Derwent reported single birds on 20th; 28th and 29th April; 7th, 11th and 12th May.

2 off the sea at Long Nab on 27th April with 1 at Cayton Carrs on 17th June - no other records from V.C. 62.

Spring passage at Blacktoft Sands involved some 20 individuals with up to 3 present on some days during May; the period of passage being from 14th April to 17th June. Elsewhere single birds were reported from Potteric Carr on 25th and 30th April; Angler's Lake on 22nd April and Chapeltown, Sheffield on 4th May. Singles at Austwick Moss (V.C. 64) on 19th and 28th April.

Autumn passage light with a total of 7 birds reported from Blacktoft Sands between 14th July and 18th September. Single birds also reported from Spurn on 8th August; Filey on 6th; Hornsea Mere on 16th; Tophill Low Res. on 19th and 1st and 7th September. Redmires Res. on 17th August; Broomhill Flash and Tudworth on 4th September and finally Horsforth (Leeds) on 9th.

#### **Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus***

The main wintering roost, Blacktoft Sands, held 5 birds during early January (2 males) increasing to 9 birds (4 males) on 18th; up to 7 during February with as many as 6 in March with 5 at the end of that month and into April; 4 on 7th; 3 on 16th with the last on 19th. The first of the autumn was on 7th October with 2 from 3rd November; 3 on 1st December with 5 (2 males) on 23rd. The roost at Cowden Range, in V.C. 61, only held the occasional bird and numbers generally in Holderness were low with 2 at Sunk Island on 10th January; 8th and 15th March and 14th November; 2 at Spurn on 20th

January. Single birds reported from 9 other locations during one or other of the winter periods..

4 at Timble Ings on 15th March with 1-2 birds occasionally at several moorland areas of V.C. 64 otherwise single birds from 3 locations in V.C. 62; 3 in V.C. 63 and 1 in V.C. 64. 2 at Leighton Res. on 14th February with 1 there on several other days from 24th January to 22nd February and at Apedale on 18th April.

#### **Montagu's Harrier** *Circus pygarus*

A single adult male at Flamborough on 9th May (AMA: GAS). Single *ringtail* at Blacktoft Sands on 11th June (AG). An immature female was reported at Wheldrake Ings on 16th June (TED: PP: DW) being seen again the following day and at North Duffield Carrs on 20th thereafter on occasions along the Lower Derwent until 20th August (FWO). *Ringtails* at Blacktoft Sands on 18th and 19th June (AG); at Flamborough on 16th July (JMP) and at Bempton on 30th July (PPh).

#### **Goshawk** *Accipiter gentilis*

In the south of the county several pairs bred though nearly all failed owing either to desertion due to inclement weather at critical times or the attention of egg collectors. Birds were present at 4 other locations; 2 in V.C. 61 and 1 each in V.C. 62 and 64 during the breeding season though positive proof of breeding is not forthcoming.

Single birds at Spurn on 20th March and 3rd April (the 4th and 5th records for the Observatory). 1 at Flamborough on 6th April (PAL: JCL); from 22nd October until 1st November (PAL); a female on 7th November (JMP) and 2 birds on 29th November (AMA: JMP). Single birds also in V.C. 61 at Broomfleet Ponds on 12th March (TAE); Tophill Low Res. on 19th March (RL: ASP); Wheldrake Ings on 2nd (PP) and 14th April (TED: GO: EBB); North Duffield Carrs on 13th August (EBB: TED) and Hornsea on 12 October (JESW). In V.C. 63 at Angler's Lake on 1st April and Blacktoft on 15th October (AG). V.C. 64 reported 1 at High Batts N.R. on 1st April (SW). 2 near Bolton Abbey on 28th February (PMW) with 1 at Fairburn Ings on 5th September (JG) and on Baildon Moor on 9th October (JB).

Single at Roundhill Res. on 15th February (NJM).

#### **Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter nisus*

The overall trend in V.C. 61 would appear to be upwards though definite proof of breeding was not forthcoming in many locations. Some evidence of passage along the coast with 5 at Flamborough on 29th August; 6 there on 22nd October and 7 on both 25th October and 1st November.

Few records received from V.C. 62 though well distributed in the vicinity of Pickering.

In V.C. 63, a continuing population survey by the Barnsley Bird Study Group revealed 38 nests with at least 107 young thus indicating a thriving population particularly as some woodlands were not surveyed. Indications of a healthy breeding population in other areas of this V.C. Very common and widespread in V.C. 64 being absent only from the open moorland tops. 6 at Gouthwaite during March and early November with 5 passing through Fairburn Ings on 30th August. No records received from V.C. 65 though it is considered to be unchanged in status and remains common in suitable areas.

#### **Buzzard** *Buteo buteo*

1 being mobbed by gulls when flying west over Tophill Low Res. on 30th April (TR) the only report from V.C. 61 though an unidentified buzzard was seen soaring over the Lower Derwent on 11th October.

Single birds reported from V.C. 63 at Blacktoft Sands on 24th August; at Wintersett Res. on 25th September; Haw Park on 3rd and 4th September; Potteric Carr on 7th May; Wadworth on 8th August; flying northeast over Bradford on 12th September and near Penistone on 14th.

In V.C. 64, single birds were reported from 15 locations from January to late May and again from mid July to the end of December. 2 in the Gouthwaite area during

January and February were also frequently reported from Leighton Res. (V.C. 65) as were 2 present there during the latter months of the year.

4 at Leighton Res. on 27th September; 1-2 at Feldon during the first 4 months of the year with 1 north over Bedale on 25th December.

#### **Rough-legged Buzzard *Buteo lagopus***

Single birds flying south at Spurn on 13th and 18th April, the only records from V.C. 61. The Gouthwaite/Leighton Res. areas of V.C. 64/65 recorded 2 birds from 11th February until 22nd March, 1 of which roosted at Druid's Plantation. Single birds also reported from Fewston Res. on 18th April (AGG) and Helks Gill, Gouthwaite on 24th October.

#### **Osprey *Pandion haliaetus***

Single birds at Angler's Lake on 23rd March (KD) and Knotford Nook on 31st (GTF); in April at Langsett on 12th (MJW: MJC); at Angler's, Wombwell Ings and Farnham on 13th (SD: ADH: CN); at Thrybergh on 18th (MAS); at Wath Ings/Wombwell Ings/Broomhill Flash on 22nd before moving off northwest and being seen at Worsborough Res. flying west (DMW *et al*); at Elland G.P. on 26th (RR). In May at Grimston (SWi) on 9th; Pulfyn Bog on 10th (PMS); Gouthwaite on 23rd and Bempton on 25th (JWC); Tophill Low Res. and Scalby Mills on 26th and Filey on 27th (PJD: JAP). 1 at Castle Howard on 2nd/3rd June with another there on 19th (TB: TED).

In autumn reported from Tophill Low Res. on 25th/26th August (PD: GH: BR) and at Wath Ings on 25th (DMW). 1 at Newburgh reported from an unknown date during this month remaining there until 17th September (PH). In September 1 at Gouthwaite on 11th; Gormire Lake and the Little Don Valley on 13th and south at Spurn on 14th. Another near Newbrough on 20th and again from 22nd to 27th whilst one found in a distressed state at Kirkbymoorside during this month was released at Ampleforth; this bird carrying a Swedish ring. Singles at Lindholme on 11th October (JCo) with an immature at Eccup on 23rd (SPS). The last of the year being at Flamborough on 20th November (PAL).

#### **Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus***

Widespread though very few comments received and no change in status being indicated. Light passage noted at Flamborough with peaks of 8 on 18th September and 9 on 4th November. 8 at Sunk Island on 15th August with 11 there on 31st and 16, mainly moving west along the river, on 13th September. 9 over Wath Ings on 13th September with 10 at Fairburn Ings on 14th and 19th of this month.

#### **Red-footed Falcon *Falco vespertinus***

Single first summer male at Flamborough on 2nd May (AMA). Under consideration by the *British Birds Rarities Committee*.

An immature male, probably second summer, at Blacktoft Sands from 15th July until 4th September (GC *et al*).

#### **Merlin *Falco columbarius***

12 pairs bred in V.C. 64 though could be far higher as many locations were not surveyed. Bred in the Sheffield area though as in previous years not certain how many in Yorkshire or Derbyshire. 1 pair in V.C. 65 though no doubt this is not a true figure; present in the Huddersfield and Halifax areas of V.C. 63 though no proof forthcoming.

Present along the coast and estuary of V.C. 61 from January to late April and again from late July to end of December usually only 1 bird being reported but 2 on several occasions at Spurn; Cherry Cobb; Sunk Island and Flamborough. Outside these times, 2 at Spurn on 25th May and 1 at Grimston the following day.

Single birds along the Lower Derwent Ings occasionally in the early months being more widespread after mid August to the end of the year. Blacktoft Sands frequently reported birds with single birds from 12 other locations during the early months and from 20 locations from late August onwards. 3 at Wath Ings on 27th December.

#### **Hobby *Falco subbuteo***

Considered to have bred in V.C. 63. Well recorded in V.C. 61 with Spurn having 1 on 29th April; 1st May; 11th, 19th, 22nd, 27th and 28th June with 2 on 29th. 1 there on 14th, 16th and 24th July and 2 on 30th; 1 on 2nd, 3rd and 12th August with the last there on 28th October. Flamborough reported many birds, all singles, on 19th April; 30th April, 20th June; daily from 12th to 17th August and also on 26th, 28th and 29th; 4th, 5th and 20th September and finally on 5th October. Tophill Low Res. on 19th July; 20th August remaining until 7th September and another on 20th and 21st. Filey on 6th and 28th June with 1 at Bempton on 24th June and 27th July. Single birds on 1 date at Hull Docks, Grimston, Rise, Broomfleet Ponds, Weeton and Hornsea. In the York area, 2 at Askham Bog on 2nd July with 1 there on 29th and 30th June. At Brayton (dead) in early June; Brandsby on 18th, Ampleforth on 20th. 1 at Huntington and Rowntrees (York) on 13th July and 1 shot at Clifton Airfield on 19th (being taken into care – per TED). 1 at North Duffield on 29th.

Single birds in V.C. 63, excepting 4 at one location from late July into August; at Bretton Park on 24th April; Blacktoft Sands on 13th June; 28th July; 13th to 18th August with 1 south on 31st; Wath Ings on 27th June; 12th August; 5th and 10th September; Redmires Res. from 2nd August to 6th September; Pugney's on 3rd August; Old Denaby on 5th August; Royd Moor, 29th August; Thrybergh on 17th September and Wintersett on 25th September.

Compared to recent years, a poor showing in V.C. 64 with single birds at Bolton Abbey on 24th April; Gouthwaite on 31st May; Barden Scale on 4th July; Staveley on 18th July; Fairburn Ings on 12th July and Ledston on 17th August.

Single birds in V.C. 65 at Bolton-on-Swale on 6th and 22nd July; on 3rd September at Leighton Res. and nearby Nosterfield. 2 at Bolton-on-Swale on 1st July.

#### **Peregrine *Falco peregrinus***

Bred at Booth Dam Quarry near Risworth where the RSPB established a public viewing site. 3 young raised. A further 7 pairs bred in the county rearing 10 young.

Fewer reported this year from V.C. 61 with single birds at Flamborough on 3rd January (female) and 4th (male); 6th August; 3rd, 10th, 17th, 20th, 22nd, 24th and 25th October; 4th, 7th, 24th and 25th November and 25th December. 2 on 22nd November. Filey on 28th January, 7th February, 8th April; 13th and 17th October; 5th, 10th and 22nd November and 23rd December. Singles over Hull on 17th March and 20th December. In the Lower Derwent, reported on 20th May; 17th November; 7th, 10th and 26th December. 1 over Scarborough on 19th March the only record from V.C. 62.

1 frequented Huddersfield town centre during January with other records coming from Wath Ings on 8th April; 26th July; 7th August; 7th September and 2nd October. Blacktoft Sands on 8th, 21st and 28th October; 6th and 12th December; Winscar Res. on 1st February and Fly Flatts Res. on 10th August.

4 at Gouthwaite on 28th February and 12th September with 2 at Harewood Park throughout October otherwise single birds, away from the high moors, at 15 locations until 9th May and from late August to the end of the year. 1–2 regularly at Leighton Res. until 16th April and again from 1st August with 3 on 22nd. Also reported in V.C. 65 from Bolton-on-Swale; Thornton Steward; Fenhall and Newton-le-Willows.

#### **Red Grouse *Lagopus lagopus***

No comments received concerning the status of this species though considered to be little changed. Despite the wet summer said to have had an excellent breeding season in the Harrogate area.

**Black Grouse** *Tetrao tetrix*

No reports received from Langstrothdale, in V.C. 64, thus the only record from that V.C. was of a female near Settle on 1st February. In V.C. 65, a male at Kisdon Hall on 1st May; 3 males at Braidley Bents on 22nd October (Coverdale) and a female at Healagh on 25th April.

**Red-legged Partridge** *Alectoris rufa*

Comments on status received were; Flamborough, 'some evidence of recovery over the last few years'; V.C. 64; 'appears to have decreased slightly in the Leeds area otherwise little change'; 'increasing in the Scorton/Bolton-on-Swale areas of V.C. 65'.

Coveys of 76 on Thorne Moors on 15th January; 26 at Riccall on 26th September; 24 at Wath on 17th January; 22 at Fairburn on 20th September and 20 at Aughton on 25th January; many other locations reporting 11 to 17 birds. 2 on Malham Moor on 4th August being unusual. Large numbers of hybrids being released in the northern part of the York Ornithological Club reporting area whilst at Tophill Low Res. many tame 'ogridges' were released during December exhibiting characteristics closer to Chukar *Alectoris chukar*.

**Grey Partridge** *Perdix perdix*

Comments received were; 'rather scarcer than the previous species' (Flamborough); 'no sign of improvement' (Filey); 'considered to be increasing' (Sheffield); 'appears to be a slight increase (Lower Derwent) and from V.C. 64 'the decline continues in some areas (did not breed at Fairburn) but a slight increase in the Leeds area'.

Largest coveys reported being 49 at Worsborough Dyke on 16th January; 66 at Wath on 17th January and 43 there on 24th October; 40 at Carlton Marsh on 16th January and 33 at Crockey Hill on 1st November.

**Quail** *Coturnix coturnix*

Bred near Rievaulx with birds present from 9th June to late August; on 16th August a very small chick was seen on the road, 7 chicks seen nearby on 18th and 20th in company of 2 adults (JP). 5 flushed from cornfields near Finningley on 28th August and breeding suspected here. 1-4 birds calling during the summer months from Cayton/Cayton Carrs; Wheldrake; North Duffield; Riccall; Hatfield Moors; Wilsic; East Cottingwith; Tophill Low Res.; Bishopthorpe; Fangfoss; Flamborough; Aike; Kilnsea; Breighton; Nunnington; Wintersett; Carlton Marsh and Hornsea. The only records from V.C. 64 being at Starbeck on 24th May; near Harrogate on 2nd June and at High Batts N.R. on 26th.

**Pheasant** *Phasianus colchicus*

Throughout all areas the status of this species would appear to remain unchanged with many being released by shooting syndicates.

**Golden Pheasant** *Chrysolophus pictus*

A male at Bishopthorpe on 25th April with a female and 7 chicks there on 4th June (YOC Report).

**Water Rail** *Rallus aquaticus*

4 pairs bred at Fulford Ings with at least 3 pairs at Blacktoft Sands. Breeding may have occurred at Hornsea Mere; Tophill Low Res.; Fairburn Ings and at 3 locations in the Sheffield area.

Widespread during the winter months with at least 50 locations reporting at least 1 bird. Up to 5 at Blacktoft in early January with 16 reported there on 27th September; 25 on 3rd November and 10+ to the end of the year. 7 at Fairburn Ings on 18th January

and up to 6 during December. 4 at Broomfleet Ponds from October to December with the following locations reporting 3 birds on one or more occasion; Hornsea Mere; Tophill Low Res.; Golcar; Carlton Marsh; Worsborough and Esholt S.F.

#### **Spotted Crake** *Porzana porzana*

2 present at Tophill Low Res. gave excellent views; the first from 23rd to 25th August (RL: PMS *et al*) and the second from 30th August to at least 29th October (RG *et al*). 1 brought in by a cat at Scarborough on 22nd April (MFr). 1 at Blacktoft Sands on 24th August and 9th September with what may have been the same bird from 19th to 25th September (AG *et al*).

#### **Corncrake** *Crex crex*

Probably 3 pairs bred along the Lower Derwent whilst in the east of the county a bird was heard calling throughout the breeding season of 1986 and again through the same period in 1987. An adult was photographed in a garden at this location in July 1987 and is considered to have bred in this area. 1 calling at dusk on Burley Moor on 10th July (TK) with 1 seen walking on an embankment at Thorpe Marsh on 5th October (PHM).

#### **Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus*

Apparently no change in status with widespread breeding in suitable habitat. Largest counts being; in V.C. 61; 46 at Melbourne on 25th September; V.C. 63 at Wath Ings with 119 on 24th October and 103 there on 19th December; V.C. 64 with up to 52 at Fairburn Ings during September. A bird found dead at Naburn S.F. on 21st January had been ringed at Peakirk (150 km southeast) on 25th February 1986.

#### **Coot** *Fulcia atra*

Good breeding season along the Lower Derwent/Pocklington Canal with c150 pairs. High counts reported in V.C. 61 being 1169 at Hornsea Mere on 21st February; 880 on 15th August and 960 on 6th December; Tophill Low Res. with 224 during November and 313 in December (the best count for several years). V.C. 63 had up to 552 at Wintersett Res. in January with 680 on 13th December; Pugney's with 460 on 15th January and 428 on 14th November; 300 at Old Denaby on 19th December with 335 in the Rother Valley on 13th December. Fairburn Ings, in V.C. 64 held 750 during February; 780 in September; 900 during October; 1018 in November and 1100 in December; other counts being 427 at Mickletown Ings on 30th December; 400 in January at Hay-a-Park. Bolton-on-Swale being the only locality in V.C. 65 reporting large numbers with 531 on 23rd January and 570 on 12th December.

#### **Crane** *Grus grus*

1 at Willerby (Hull) on 10th May (KR: MKR). 1 flying along Burbage Ridge onto Ringing Low Bog (near Sheffield), where it remained for a few minutes before flying off north, on 14th June (JHo). An adult on flooded grassland at Blacktoft Sands on the evening of 3rd September (AG: NH).

On the morning of 16th June what may have been the Ringing Low Bog bird was seen flying northeasterly over Upper Royland (JCS *et al*), thence over Hugsett Wood before landing near Banks Hall, Cawthorne where it remained until at least mid-day of the 17th (MS). Under consideration by the *British Birds Rarities Committee*.

Two or more birds calling in fog as they flew over Flamborough on 10th June (AMA). Under consideration by the *British Birds Rarities Committee* and accepted as unidentified cranes by the YNU Committee.

**Oystercatcher** *Haematopus ostralegus*

Average breeding season along the Lower Derwent/Pocklington Canal area though no breeding along the Lower Wharfe in the York area. Bred at Everingham, in V.C. 61, attempted to breed at Spurn; failed at Blacktoft. Reported breeding from 10 locations in V.C. 64 with at least 23 pairs plus a further 20 pairs along the Wharfe between Ilkley and Otley including 1 pair at 900 feet on Askwith Moor. In V.C. 65, 53 pairs breeding with 29 between Masham and Wensley; 9 in the Bolton-on-Swale/Great Langton area.

Monthly maxima at Spurn being 3000 on 29th January; 1500 on both 7th and 21st February; 1000 on 3rd March; 2000 on 17th September; 1700 on 3rd October; 2000 on 3rd November and 1600 on 31st December. Smaller numbers along the coast with Filey having a maximum of 113 in July; Scarborough with 150 in December; 152 at Whitby on 29th October; 173 on 3rd September and 205 on 16th December at Staithes. Southerly passage along the coast with Flamborough reporting 93 on 23rd July; 84 on 26th; 114 on 9th August; 606 on 12th; 126 on 15th; 160 on 16th; 339 on 23rd and 120 on 24th. Spurn had 1471 on 12th whilst at Hornsea 169 on 23rd. Light passage along the Humber at both Sunk Island and Cherry Cobb though at Blacktoft 533 were reported during autumn, mainly flying west, with maxima of 64 on 23rd July and 73 on 5th August. Wintersett Res. with 6 on 30th April had the next highest count for V.C. 63. In V.C. 64, 1 at Knotford Nook on 23rd January was unusual; highest count in this V.C. being 40+ in the Ribble valley on 28th March. In V.C. 65; Bolton-on-Swale reported 45 on 8th March; Masham G.P. 50 on 20th March and 55 on 22nd July; Nosterfield, 50 on 25th March and 31 on 22nd July with 36 at Semerwater on 15th March.

**Avocet** *Recurvirostra avosetta*

1 flying south off Grimston (TI) on 18th April was no doubt the bird reported from Easington/Kilnsea Lagoons on the same date. 4 present at Blacktoft Sands on 10th June of which 2 were paired and seen copulating on 11th (AG). 1 on the Humber Wildfowl Refuge on 15th November (BH).

**Stone Curlew** *Burhinus oedicnemus*

1 at Flamborough on 27th April (JCL).

**Little Ringed Plover** *Charadrius dubius*

In V.C. 61, 3 pairs at Riccall; 2 at both Tophill Low Res. and Bransholme. Possible breeding occurring at Catwick; Broomfleet Ponds and Pulfin Bog. 1 pair bred in V.C. 62, at Seamer G.P. with possible breeding at Clifton Airfield. In V.C. 63, 20 pairs bred with 10 at Treeton Dyke, 2 each at Edderthorpe and Carlton Marsh and 1 at Blacktoft; North Auston; Manvers; Worsborough; Whiteholme Res. and Langsett Res.. 20 pairs bred in V.C. 64 though exact locations not stated whilst in V.C. 65, 2 pairs at Masham G.P. and Scorton Quarry with 1 at Great Langton. Reported in March from Farnham and Wath Ings on 26th and Fairburn Ings on 29th; Edderthorpe, Blacktoft and Ripon Park on 31st. Highest count during spring being 16 at Fairburn on 5th May. In autumn, 20 at Riccall on 10th July with 18 at Aldwarke S.F. on 25th; 12 at Gouthwaite on 12th and up to 10 at Fairburn during August. Few remained into September with 1 at Nosterfield on 16th and Wath Ings on 28th whilst the last of the year at Blacktoft on 3rd October.

**Ringed Plover** *Charadrius hiaticula*

5 or 6 pairs bred at Spurn with 3 holding territories at Beacon Lane Ponds, Kilnsea; the outcome of these latter not being known. Possibly bred at Riccall. In V.C. 63, 3 pairs at Hay-a-Park and 1 each at Gouthwaite and Farnham. 4 pairs at Nosterfield, in V.C. 65, with 2 at Scorton Quarry and Pallet Hill (near Catterick) and 1 at a riverside gravel pit at Catterick;

Occasionally reported from Spurn during the winter months though not reported from the Humber until 1st March at Sunk Island where 62 on 2nd May increased to 238 on 10th thence decreasing. Cherry Cobb reported 86 on 21st April with 1190 on 10th May

then 625 on 17th and 42 on 6th June. No mention of birds of the Arctic race *C.h. tundrae* from either Cherry Cobb or Sunk Island, but at Easington Lagoons 110 present on 15th May with 80 on 25th; 106 on 28th; 63 on 30th; 40 on 31st and 18 on 1st June. Spurn also reported this race with 25 on 9th May; 39 on 15th; 30 on 22nd and 45 on 25th. Further north along the coast; nominate birds reported were 55 at Wilsthorpe on 26th February; Flamborough with 85 on 17th January and 78 on 26th November.

Relatively scarce in V.C. 63 except at Blacktoft where many records with 20 on 22nd March; 25 on 27th April; 41 on 17th May; 25 on 25th (which included many birds of the race *C.h. tundrae*). 28 on 13th July and into August with 45 on 8th September down to 16 on 7th October. 17 at Wath Ings on 13th May with 16 on 23rd. 7 at Redmires Res. on 10th May and 7 at Whiteholme on 14th August. Small numbers in V.C. 64 with up to 10 at Fairburn Ings during April and 13 in May. 14 at Bolton-on-Swale on 9th May with 18 at Nosterfield on 25th May and 23 on 7th June. 13 at Nosterfield the highest count during Autumn.

#### **Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus***

Single females were reported from Blacktoft Sands between 24th and 26th April (AG *et al*); Beacon Lane Ponds, Kilnsea on 31st May (NAB) and at Riccall on 4th June (TB).

#### **Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus***

9 on Beamsley Moor on 20th April (JW); 7 on Houndkirk Moor near Sheffield on 22nd birds being present there until 16th May with peak of 26 on 9th and 15th (PAA: KRG *et al*). 3 at Reedness on 3rd May (JED *et al*) whilst nearby at Blacktoft 2 on 8th with 7 from 19th to 22nd and 15 on 23rd, 9 on 24th and 2 on 25th (AG *et al*). 12 on Malham Moor on 7th May. 7 at Aldbrough on 9th with 5 from 10th to 12th (AFJ *et al*). 25 on Wheeldale Moor on 9th with 12 on Shunner Howe, Rosedale on 10th (JMc). 1 at Kilnsea from 10th to 13th.

Only two records during autumn, 1 at Flamborough on 28th August (PAL: JMP) and 2 at Tophill Low Res. on 5th September (TR) – the first record for this location.

#### **American Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica***

An adult in full summer plumage at Stone Creek on 4th July (SML: JW *et al*) and 1 at Newington in V.C. 63, the following day (ML: JWo). Considered by the *British Birds Rarities Committee* to be the same bird involved.

#### **Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria***

The only comment received concerning breeding was from V.C. 64 where 'bred in all the usual moorland areas'.

Scarce in all areas during the early months with 3200 at Wistow Lordship on 2nd January; 2200 at Cherry Cobb on 3rd; 850 at Sunk Island on 3rd; 1000 at Denaby Common on 6th and 800 at Wath Ings on 4th.

Returning birds from early July with 1830 at Cherry Cobb by 26th thence becoming more widespread during August with Cherry Cobb having 2300 on 16th; 1800 at Sunk Island on 15th increasing to 7000 by the end of the month; 2000 at Blacktoft on 30th with up to 600 on the Humber Wildfowl Refuge in this month. 700–1000 near Tophill Low Res. during the latter days of this month also. In September numbers increased on the Humber Wildfowl Refuge with a maximum of 8000 there; 4000 at Sunk Island on 6th and 12th with 3200 on 19th; nearby Cherry Cobb recording 10750 on 13th and 9500 on 20th; 1250 at Pocklington Airfield on 10th; 1200–2000 present in the Tophill Low Res. area from 18th to 22nd with 3900 on 29th; 2500 at Blacktoft on 18th and 900 at Wath Ings on 25th. The only records from the estuary during October were from the Wildfowl Refuge where up to 6000 were recorded; 1200 at North Duffield on 28th and 30th with 1500 on 29th. November saw 10000 at Cherry Cobb on 8th and 7870 at Sunk Island on 22nd whilst a monthly maximum of 13800 was counted on the Humber Wildfowl Refuge; 1200 at Wheldrake Ings on 5th; c2000 near Barnsley during mid month

with 1000 at Goldbrough. In December up to 14000 on the Humber Wildfowl Refuge; 7000 at Cherry Cobb on 20th with 2500 at Sunk Island on 27th; 1160 at Cowden mid month; 1000 at Howden on 6th. 2000 near Wheldrake Ings on 23rd; 3600 at Blacktoft on 19th; 1000 at Carlton Marsh on 19th; up to 3000 at Fairburn Ings during this month and 1000 at Knostrop S.F. also.

#### **Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola***

Small numbers along the coast with 24 at Filey (a poor year) during January; 17 at Fraisthorpe on 24th January and 32 at Spurn on 25th. Other monthly maxima at Spurn being 33 on 22nd February; 42 on 22nd March; 60 on 5th April with 23 on 13th May. 85 on 10th September; 55 on 19th October; 32 on 12th November and 50 on 29th December. Little coastal passage reported with 24 south at Filey on 23rd August; no other counts of over 10. Small numbers reported flying east at Spurn during spring with 33 on 25th May and 40 on 28th.

The stronghold for this species, the middle Humber had 115 at Cherry Cobb on 25th January; 195 on 24th April; 520 on 6th May; 675 on 16th and 755 on 17th. 290 there on 16th August with 80 on 20th December (SML). At Sunk Island c150 on 18th January; 150 on 28th February; 100 on 29th March; 170 on 2nd May and 141 on 16th. 100 on 8th August with 184 on 15th; 140 on 26th September; 143 on 11th October and 140 on 22nd November (JW). 5 at North Duffield on 6th April.

Frequently reported from V.C. 63 with most records coming from Blacktoft Sands where many of the birds were flying west. Maxima being 7 on 11th November; 6 on 27th October and 4 on 7th October and 24th May. 1-2 birds during January, March, April, July, August and September. 3 at Wath Ings on 4th October otherwise 1 bird at Redmires Res. on 5 days of the year; at Southfield Res. on 1 occasion likewise Whiteholme Res.; Blackmoorfoot Res. and Edderthorpe. A very poor year in V.C. 64 with only 5 records; 2 at Fairburn Ings on 22nd August with 1 there on 29th April and 1 at Eccup Res. on 12th August; at Farnham on 26th May. 1 at Nosterfield on 29th April the only record from V.C. 65.

Addition to 1986 Report: Single birds in V.C. 65 at Bolton-on-Swale on 6th/7th May and at Thornton Steward Res. on 10th January.

#### **Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus***

Bred at Spurn for the first time since 1970; Bempton with 6 pairs; Tophill Low Res.; 10 pairs but only 1 chick reported and 'apparently normal breeding numbers' along the Lower Derwent/Pocklington Canal and other locations in the York area. In V.C. 65 a survey of 11 tetrads produced 71 pairs with 1 (rough grassland/sheepwalk) having 24 pairs whilst many lowland (cereals) having only 1 or none. No reports concerning breeding received from V.C.s 62; 63 or 64.

In V.C. 61 only Wheldrake Ings reported any number during January with 1000 on 2nd thence in February 3000 there on 14th and 2500 on 27th; 1500 at North Duffield on 14th and 1700 on 27th. In March, North Duffield had 1000 on 3rd and 1150 on 9th with Wheldrake Ings reporting 1500 on 3rd, with a total of 3300 along the whole of the Lower Derwent on 10th. During July, 2000 were on the Lower Derwent on 8th with 1200 on 18th. No large counts in August or September but by October 1000 were at North Duffield with 2000 by the end of the month whilst Wheldrake Ings held 1000 on 17th and 3000 on 29th. November saw large flocks at many locations with 1000 at Sunk Island on 7th when 628 also flew east there and 1766 flew west; 3130 flew west there also on 22nd. 1700 at Cherry Cobb on 22nd with 1000 at Carnaby on 24th; 2980 along the southern ings of the Lower Derwent on 1st with 3000 at Wheldrake on 3rd. In December 2000 at Wheldrake on many days with 4000 on 7th; 1200 at Bubwith on 3rd and 2500 at North Duffield on 23rd. 2100 at Cherry Cobb on 13th with 1000 near Hornsea during the second week of the month; 1600 at Cowden and 2000 near Coniston. Monthly maxima at the Humber Wildfowl Refuge during the last three months of the year being 2500; 9700 and c10200.

Few records received from V.C. 62 whilst in V.C. 63 1000 at Blacktoft on 27th February and 800 at Wath Ings on 4th January were the only large flocks in the early months. Larger counts during the latter months with 1000 at Broadstones on 19th July; 1100 at Wath on 30th increasing to 1300 on 30th August with 2050 on 12th September thence 1000 throughout October and November with 2000 on 5th and 6th December. 1000 at Blacktoft on 17th October; 1600 on 4th November; 5000 on 18th decreasing to 2500 by 30th. 1000+ at the Rother Valley C.P. on 8th November with 1500 at Edderthorpe in mid November and c4000 on Whitley Common on 24th.

Similarly V.C. 64 had low counts during the early months with 350 at Gouthwaite in February being the highest count. 3000+ in the Ribble valley on 23rd August; up to 1150 at Masham during October; 1000 at Leventhorpe on 24th November and 1000 at Fairburn Ings during December. V.C. 65 reported 850 at Nosterfield in February with 1130 there during July increasing to 2000 in November; 2750 at Bolton-on-Swale on 12th September.

Addition to the 1986 Report: 7500 at Bolton-on-Swale on 19th November.

#### **Knot *Calidris canuta***

Maxima at Spurn, on the Humber, during the early and late months were: 1550 on 25th January; 1500 on 8th and 11th February though normally 100–800 with below 100 from 20th; 360 on 5th March though only reported on 12 days in this month. 32 on 29th October but only recorded on 10 days; 2400 on 9th November; usually less than 600; 2300 on 1st December; usually less than 650. Counts at Cherry Cobb being 1100 on 17th January; 3300 on 25th January and 1000 on 22nd November; at Sunk Island, 2000 on 31st January; 1000 on 8th February; 450 on 14th March; 850 on 17th October; 1250 on 7th November; 800 on 8th and 1500 on 21st (SML: JW). Small numbers further west along the Humber with 18 at Blacktoft on 11th September; 10 west there on 27th October and 46 west on 6th November. Light coastal passage with 127 south at Spurn on 1st August; 99 south there on 4th September and 69 on 26th October. At Flamborough, 52 on 19th August; Filey, 87 south on 18th July; Hornsea 97 south on 23rd August.

Inland: 2 at Tophill Low Res. on 26th September; 1 standing in the road at Hawnby (V.C. 62) on 23rd November; 1–2 birds in V.C. 63 at Burbage, Wintersett Res., Wath Ings, Southfield Res., Thrybergh, Treeton Dyke, Redmires Res., and the Rother Valley C.P. In V.C. 64 at 7 locations and in V.C. 65. 2 at Masham G.P. on 22nd August with 1 there on 25th April; 12th and 14th June; 1 at Bolton-on-Swale on 5th April and at Leighton Res. on 25th May,

#### **Sanderling *Calidris alba***

Completely absent from Filey during January though large numbers on the beach at Hornsea where usually scarce. 70 at Hornsea on 18th January with 120 there on 7th February; 146 north on 14th and 130 south on 21st. Few at Spurn during this period with up to 90 present during the latter part of February thence 10 or less in March. The winter flock at Bridlington/Barmston being 180 on 24th January; 88 on 7th February; 163 on 26th and 128 on 4th April. During the latter months this beach held 138 on 7th November whilst at Hunmanby Gap 56 on 28th November and 70 on 18th December. Light spring passage with 61 at Spurn on 25th May and 60 on 1st June; 27 at Kilnsea on 30th May; 24 at Sunk Island on 10th when 18 at Stone Creek. 1–4 at Blacktoft on several days with 12 on 17th May. In autumn, Spurn reported 77 on 24th July; 76 on 12th August with 59 at Sunk Island on 8th August. 101 south at Spurn on 1st August otherwise little coastal passage.

Inland, 2 at Wintersett Res. on 12th September with 1 at Broomhill Flash from 12th to 19th September; 1 at 8 locations in V.C. 64 between the dates 6th April and 21st November.

**Little Stint** *Calidris minuta*

A poor year in all areas with little spring passage though Blacktoft Sands reported birds between 18th May and 3rd June with 8 on 24th May; 2 at Beacon Lane Ponds, Kilnsea on 13th/14th May; 1 at Gouthwaite Res. on 26th May the only inland record.

Autumn passage little better with again Blacktoft reporting most birds; 2 on 28th July with 1 from 24th August into September though 2 on 30th; 4 on 14th September; 7 on 19th; 9 on 20th and 10 on 23rd thereafter 2-3 into October with the last on 15th. 4 at Kilnsea on 29th August; 5 at Flamborough on 23rd. Inland, in the Wath area, 2 at Wombwell on 24th/25th August, 2 on 27th; 1 at Bolton Ings on 29th; at Wombwell and Broomhill on 18th September. 1 at Hay-a-Park on 23rd July; Fairburn Ings from 9th to 11th August with 2 from 19th to 29th September and 3 on 21st and 23rd. 1 between Hawnby and Sutton Bank on 28th November; 1 at Nosterfield on 26th July and Masham G.P. on 30th August.

**Temminck's Stint** *Calidris temminckii*

The best spring on record with 14 birds present in the county on 23rd May. Fore-runners being single birds at Kilnsea on 9th May (DPo) and 10th (NAB); Tophill Low Res. on 10th (JB: TR); Blacktoft Sands and Hornsea Mere on 17th (AG: DWC); Hay-a-Park on 20th/21st (RE). On the 23rd, 5 at Blacktoft Sands (AG), 4 at Kilnsea Ponds (SML), 3 at Nosterfield and 2 at Staveley which were occasionally observed in song flight (PTT). The 3 at Nosterfield remaining until the 24th with 4 at Kilnsea to 25th. 1 at Blacktoft on 24th with 1 at Nosterfield on 26th (considered to be a different bird from the 3 on 24th). 1 at Blacktoft on 26th with 1 at Kilnsea Ponds on 3rd June (BR) and another on 7th (NAB).

Only 2 records in autumn with single birds at Blacktoft on 30th August (AG) and Fairburn Ings from 5th to 8th September (JMB: JGr).

**Pectoral Sandpiper** *Calidris melanotos*

1 at Chelker Res. on 20th June (CE) and 1 at Nosterfield on 3rd July. In autumn, at Blacktoft Sands, 1 on 19th September with 2 from 20th to 24th then 1 on 25th; 2 on 26th/27th and 1 again from 28th to 29th; considered to involve 3 individuals (AG: JED *et al*). 1 at Wombwell Ings from 26th September to 4th October and again on 6th (JMT *et al*).

**Curlew Sandpiper** *Calidris ferruginea*

In spring 1-2 birds along the Humber/Ouse at Blacktoft; Cherry Cobb; Sunk Island and Spurn from 28th April to 28th May with 3 at Sunk Island on 16th May. 1-2 at Beacon Lane Ponds, Kilnsea from 23rd to 26th May whilst 1 at Fairburn Ings on 25th May.

In autumn, almost daily at Blacktoft from 18th July to 5th November with 5 on 22nd July; 7 by the end of that month; 9 on 5th August, 10 on 13th/14th thence 2-4 to end of month. Increased during September with 12 on 22nd then 19 on 24th and 25 on 25th down to 7 by 8th October and the last 1 remaining until 5th November. 1 at Melbourne on 21st July. 4 at Cherry Cobb on 16th August down to 1 on 13th September but 8 on 20th and then 2 on 26th. 3 at Sunk Island on 22nd August with 2 on 29th and 5 on 26th September. 1-2 at Kilnsea and Spurn between 10th August and 9th September with 1-2 at Filey; Flamborough; Paull; Catwick; Fraisthorpe and Tophill Low Res. on at least 1 day during the autumn period.

Inland, 1 at Edderthorpe on 18th May with 6 at Wath Ings on 21st September. V.C.64 reported 1 at Fairburn Ings from 5th to 9th August; 12th and 14th with 4 on 13th; 3 at Staveley on 22nd September with 1 remaining until 1st October. 2 at Masham G.P. on 24th July; 1 at Bolton-on-Swale on 4th August.

**Purple Sandpiper** *Calidris maritima*

Coastal numbers during the early months were; 75 in North Bay, Scarborough on 14th January; 51 at Whitby on 31st. Monthly maxima from Filey of 105 in January; 110 during February; 205 in March and 370 in April with 25 in May, the last being recorded on 16th. At Flamborough 77 on 19th January with 60 on 15th February. Bridlington harbour had 52 on 4th January with 25 on 7th February. 2 in Hull docks on 20th January.

First to return were on 14th July at Filey after which monthly maxima were; 20 in August; 43 in September; 21 in October; 30 in November and 60 during December. Smaller numbers at Flamborough with 33 on 26th November and 32 on 29th. 34 at Bridlington on 29th November, 33 on 7th December and 18 on 3rd December. Few birds reported south of Bridlington though 5 at Spurn on 26th August; 6 south there on 27th October and 12 north at Hornsea on 21st November. c200 on Scarborough harbour wall on 28th December.

Inland; only reported from V.C. 63 with only single birds involved; at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 21st October; Redmires Res. on 28th; Fly Flatts Res. on 3rd November and Thrybergh on 22nd November.

**Dunlin** *Calidris alpina*

Bred on Pennine moorlands though no comment on status or success received.

Largest numbers were reported from the estuary with 6250 at Cherry Cobb on 22nd February; 5700 on 16th May; 1300 on 26th July and 4000 on 13th December. Sunk Island had c1000 on 31st January; c1100 on 1st March; c750 on 4th April; c1100 on 2nd May; c800 on 25th July; 1250 on 7th November and c800 on 22nd. Spurn had monthly maxima of 2000 on 15th January; 1037 on 22nd February; 900 on 5th March; 400 on 7th October; 700 on 5th November (generally far less) and 1115 on 13th December. Other counts outside these months being 500 during late May with 600 on 25th July; 800 on 27th but 1000 on 19th. 1000 on 21st August. Other coastal counts being 450 at Filey during January; 410 there in February with 450 in March; 100 in November and 243 in December; 110 on Bridlington south beach on 24th January and 150 at Scarborough on 14th January. 103 at Beacon Lane Ponds, Kilnsea on 11th August.

Further inland along the estuary, Blacktoft reported up to 200 in January; 65 in February; 380 during March; 225 in April; 160 in July; 55 in August; 410 in September; 260 in October; 40 in November and 35 during December.

Inland, on the Lower Derwent, good numbers during the early months with 210 at Aughton on 26th January; 340 at North Duffield on 14th February; 500 there on 3rd March with 730 along the lower ings on 10th and 300 at Bubwith/Ellerton on 11th. In V.C. 63, 13 at Wath Ings on 7th March with 12-16 there from 1st to 9th August; 12 at Fly Flatts Res. on 5th May; 11 at Wintersett Res. on 20th April and 13 on 23rd May; 11 at Pugney's on 21st November and 17 to west at Broadstones Res. on 13th November. In V.C. 64 very few with 10 in early May at Fairburn Ings; in autumn, 18 at Eccup Res. on 30th July; up to 14 at Fairburn during this month, 13 at Gouthwaite during the same period and 15 at Swillington Ings on 19th.

**Buff-breasted Sandpiper** *Tryngites subruficollis*

A single juvenile at Angler's Lake, Wintersett on 28th September being seen the following morning (PB *et al.*).

**Ruff** *Philomachus pugnax*

Again, possibly bred along the Lower Derwent following probably the best spring on record for that area. Over 100 recorded on several days in April with 256 on 19th. Counts at one location being 27 on 15th with 123 on 17th; 141 on 19th; 173 on 21st and 22nd after which an abrupt decline though a pair present there all May and a male into June. A second location held up to 100 during the last week of April with up to 100 in mid April at a third location and up to 22 at a fourth on 18th. Elsewhere in V.C. 61 small numbers though southerly passage noted off Spurn with 32 there on 15th April;

17 on 19th and 13 on 20th. Bransholme S.F. reported 20 on 31st March; 18 on 1st/2nd April and 6 on 3rd. 14 again on 24th with 5 on 27th. Winter records came from Tophill Low Res. with 1 from 1986 to 17th January; 2 at Sunk Island on 11th January; lower counts than normal along the Lower Derwent with 5 on 2nd January; 9 on 27th February and 9 on 11th March.

15 at Blacktoft on 5th April decreasing to 2 on 15th thence 12 on 18th; 16 on 20th; 24 on 22nd with 13 still present on 1st May. Only Fairburn in V.C. 64, reported any numbers, with 4 on 15th April; 24 on 16th then 10 until 28th.

Autumn passage along the Lower Derwent was low with only 1-3 birds being recorded. Cherry Cobb reported 89 on 13th September; Sunk Island, 16 on 19th, 23 on 20th; 42 on 3rd October, 40 on 10th and 11 on 24th; Stone Creek, 81 on 20th September with 42 on 1st November. Blacktoft Sands had the lowest autumn passage for 8 years with 21 on 6th July; 32 on 10th and 45 by the end of that month. 64 on 9th August increasing to 75 on 30th thence the peak of the year with 90 on 21st September. 8-25 in October; 1-3 in November and 1-2 in December. Daily at Wombwell during August and September with maximum count of 18 on 26th August and 7 on 17th September. 6 at Wintersett on 18th September. 12 at Fairburn Ings on 21st August; 13 southwest at Eccup on 15th July; 16 at Nosterfield on 18th April and 11 on 19th.

Only the Lower Derwent reported numbers during the latter months of the year with 18 at North Duffield on 28th October; 16 at Wheldrake on 2nd November; 25 at Bubwith on 3rd; 20 at North Duffield on 25th with 20 at Wheldrake on 26th and 23 there on 31st December.

#### **Jack Snipe *Lymnocryptes minimus***

A very poor year with very few records from the eastern half of the county. 2 at Spurn on 11th and 27th October; 2 at Flamborough on 27th October; 2 at Broomfleet Ponds on 26th December with 3 there on 12th and 21st. Single birds on one or more occasions at Wheldrake Ings; Aughton; Tophill Low Res.; Burstwick; Saltend; Filey and Bransholme. Only reported on 2 occasions from V.C. 62, at Castle Howard and Saltwick Nab. In V.C. 63, 4 at Wath Ings on 17th January otherwise 2 at Elland G.P. on 17th and 19th February. During the latter months, 10 near Sheffield in an unspecified area of c6 square miles, 7 at Blacktoft on 19th November; 5 on 10th and 2 on 1st. The Rother Valley C.P. reported 4 on 30th December with 3 at Treeton on 8th November; 2 at Wombwell Ings on several days in October. An extremely poor year in V.C. 64 with 7 at Gallow Hill near Knaresborough on 12th February and 4 at Otley G.P. on 21st.

#### **Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago***

Estimated 50 breeding pairs at Wheldrake with 25 at Aughton, 11 at Wath Ings and bred on many moorlands though no details received. 'Another poor year' in V.C. 64 with little proven breeding. In V.C. 65 'breeding in many suitable locations'.

Low counts in V.C. 61 during the early months with up to 34 at Spurn during mid January; 43 at Swinemoor, near Beverley on 19th March and 25 there on 30th. Highest count of this period being 127 at Fulford Ings on 13th March. Slightly more in the latter months with an exceptional 500+ at Wheldrake Ings on 6th November following 150 on 3rd and 160 on 5th with 180 on 10th; the count on 6th being the highest documented for Yorkshire. 90 at Flamborough on 25th December. 100 at Wheldrake on 14th.

In V.C. 63, a similar situation with 45 at Wath Ings on 8th March and 43 at Worsborough on 1st. Record counts at Blacktoft during the latter months with 210 on 25th September and 280 on 19th November and up to 116 in October. Wath recorded 140 on 6th September with 100 on 4th October; 80 at Carlton Marsh on 21st December. 30 at Skipton S.W. on 6th April the highest count from V.C. 64 in the early months with 40 at Otley G.P. on 4th November increasing to 64 by 20th December; 73 at Staveley on 15th November. 'The worst year in living memory at Mickletown Ings with 5 on 31st August the maximum'.

### **Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola***

Roding birds at several locations in the York area though no definite breeding reported. 11 at Flamborough on 18th January with 9 on 3rd November. 7 there on 4th and 9th November with 7 at Spurn on 4th. Roding birds in several forest locations near Pickering whilst in V.C. 63 widespread reports of roding birds with proven breeding at a few locations. V.C. 64 reported the status and distribution unchanged with no more than 3 birds at any location excepting 8 near Baildon on 13th April.

### **Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa***

No breeding attempts along the Lower Derwent with generally a poor year there; the highest count being 25 on 6th April, an isolated peak. Recorded during all months from Cherry Cobb and Sunk Island with 17 at Sunk Island on 8th August; 16 on 29th and 10 on 31st. 7 on 19th September and 12 on 5th and 6th December. 1-4 there in other months with a similar number at Cherry Cobb but 6 on 20th September. (JW:SML). 10 flying west at Stone Creek on 13th December with 13 on the Humber at Spurn on 29th August. Reported from V.C. 63 between March and October; 1-4 at Blacktoft on several occasions with 13 on 10th July; 12 on 1st August; 6 on 19th. 15 flew over Redmires Res. in 3 flocks, but in different directions, on 1st August. 4 at Broomhill Flash on 1st August. 1-2 occasionally at Wintersett Res.; Southfield Res.; Rother Valley C.P. and Wath Ings. 17 at Fairburn Ings on 11th April with 22 on 12th; 10 at Farnham on 8th September otherwise 1-2 in the Ribble valley and at Staveley on several days. In V.C. 65 3 at Nosterfield on 14th April with 13 on 15th. 1 at Bolton-on-Swale on 27th March and 30th April.

### **Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica***

Light coastal passage with the maximum being 14 at Flamborough on 12th September though 50 flying east at Spurn on 22nd April. Winter numbers at Spurn low with maxima of 32 in January; 35 in February; 32 in March; 40 during October; 9 in November and 26 in December. Normal numbers reported from Sunk Island and Cherry Cobb; 84 at Sunk Island on 1st January; 160 on 31st; 240 on 14th February, 220 on 22nd. Up to 84 during November with 132 on 5th December. 310 at Cherry Cobb on 11th January, 900 on 25th; 480 on 22nd February, 54 on 15th March and 35 on 17th May. 95 on 13th September, 80 on 22nd November; 115 on 13th and 20th December (SML: JW).

Westerly passage noted from Blacktoft with 144 counted on 22 days between late June and early September. 21 on 1st July and 34 on 13th being maxima. 26 on the reserve on 26th September. Further inland, 6 west at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 31st July; 5 at Wintersett Res. on 8th September. 1 occasionally at 5 other locations in V.C. 63. 9 records from V.C. 64 of 1-2 birds at 4 locations. 2 at Fairburn Ings on 30th June and 2 at Staveley on 26th April. In V.C. 65, 1 at Bolton-on-Swale on 7th March and from 27th April to 4th May.

### **Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus***

2 at Flamborough on 17th January, 1 of which was considered to show the characteristics of the eastern race *N.p.variegatus*. First of spring was at Hornsea on 26th March thence Blacktoft on 5th April and Ross Carrs on 6th. Passage light in spring with 11 at Cherry Cobb on 26th April and 12 north off Filey on 28th. Highlight of the year though being the discovery of a 'roost' at Wheldrake in April with 35 on 24th; 66 on 27th; 68 on 29th; 86 on 1st May, 88 on 3rd; 44 on 5th and 24 on 6th, birds coming in, in very late evening, and usually from the north.

Autumn passage moderate with 126 south at Filey between 3rd July and 15th September; 242 at Flamborough during the same period; maxima at Filey of 40 on 18th July and 17 on 13th September; at Flamborough of 24 on 11th August, 32 on 12th, 19 on 15th and 23 on 10th September. 214 south at Spurn during July-September with 58 on 9th August. Late birds here on 2nd and 20th November.

11 south at Long Nab on 20th August the only count above 10 in V.C. 62. Blacktoft, in V.C. 63, reported 80 during autumn with 22 on 23rd August. Reported from 5

locations during spring in this V.C. and 11 during autumn with 9 at North Anston on 11th August; 7 at Wath Ings on 31st July and 5 at both Broadstones Res. on 22nd July and Whiteholme Res. on 4th August. 1-4 from 15 locations in V.C. 64 during spring though less during autumn with 16 records all concerning 1-2 birds. 4 at Nosterfield on 14th July and 5 at Masham G.P. on 22nd August; 1 at Leighton Res. on 2 days in spring and at Bolton-on-Swale on 2 days in both spring and autumn.

#### **Curlew *Numenius arquata***

Good breeding numbers in the Lower Derwent/Pocklington Canal and other York Orn. Club areas. Breeding considered normal in the vicinity of Pickering in V.C. 62; widespread breeding in the Sheffield; Huddersfield; Halifax and Keighley areas of V.C. 63. Both V.C. 64 and 65 reported successful breeding seasons.

520 at Sunk Island on 3rd January with 450 on 22nd February; 250 on 5th April; c600 on 11th July; 850 by 9th August with 1000 on 30th; 1150 on 13th September with 900 on 14th November. Cherry Cobb reported 700 on 11th January; 760 on 25th; 950 on 22nd February; 930 on 29th March; 700 on 24th April; 280 on 10th May and 70 on 6th June. 300 by 20th June with 1550 on 4th July; 2150 on 19th and 2870 on 13th September; 950 on 1st November and 500+ on 13th December. Westerly passage at Blacktoft between 9th June and 9th September with 1292 counted; maxima being 101 on 30th June; 197 on 1st July and 96 on 9th. 500+ in the Settle area on 28th March; 121 at Eccup Res. on 1st March. 300-1000 present in the Denton/Askwith Moor area during July.

#### **Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus***

The over wintering bird at Blacktoft not reported after 11th January whilst 1 called in briefly at Spurn on 21st. In April, single birds at Aughton Ings; North Duffield Carrs (thought to be 3 individuals); Spurn; Easington; Fairburn Ings; Flamborough; Pugney's and the Ribble valley. 2 at Fairburn Ings on 12th; 4 at Blacktoft on 15th with 5 on 27th; 9 at Cherry Cobb on 26th and 2 at Sunk Island on 25th and 26th. 2 at Wheldrake Ings on 17th. In May, 4 at Cherry Cobb on 6th; 4 at Wombwell Ings on 10th, 3 remaining until 16th; 2 at Angler's Lake on 24th with 1 at Spurn and Fairburn during the month.

A poor autumn away from the estuary where Cherry Cobb reported 11 on 16th August; Blacktoft, 5 on 22nd June; 11 on 24th August; 18 on 31st; 15 on 9th September with 13 on 25th and 8 on 4th October. Flamborough recorded 6 on 26th August and Tophill Low Res. 10 on 20th. Wath Ings 3 on 26th August; Sunk Island 3 on 29th and Spurn on 6th and 18th September. 1-2 birds at several locations in V.C. 61; 63 and 64.

#### **Redshank *Tringa totanus***

150 pairs bred along the Lower Derwent/Pocklington Canal; the only other breeding record for V.C. 61 being 3 pairs at Swinemoor near Beverley. Possible breeding at Pulfin Bog. In the York area also bred at Fulford Ings; Tilmire and Middlethorpe Ings: In V.C. 63 bred at 3 locations near Huddersfield; 2 near Halifax; 3 near Sheffield and 1 near Wakefield plus 6 pairs at Blacktoft. No comments from V.C. 64 but found breeding in many suitable locations around ponds/gravel workings and in the uplands of V.C. 65.

340 at Cherry Cobb on 25th January; 600 on 8th February; 503 on 29th March slowly decreasing to 55 on 21st June thence increase to 250 on 4th July; 300 on 19th and 550 on 26th. 700 on 16th August; 1200 on 13th September with 700 on 1st November. Sunk Island having 100 on 11th January increasing to 400 on 14th February down to 204 on 29th March; 145 on 20th April. 250 on 18th July; 150 on 29th August; 700 on 12th September; 400 on 24th October; 500 on 22nd November but only 30 on 19th December (SML: JW). Daily at Spurn excepting 18 days in May/June; monthly maxima being 250 in January; 258 in February; 600 in March with 420 in April thence 10 in May and 18 in June. 600 in July; 368 in August; 807 in September; 260 in November and 163 in December. Coastal passage light with 77 off Flamborough on 18th July; 107 off Filey on 19th.

Blacktoft reported up to 45 during the early months with 112 on 12th August; 90 in September and 75 in October. Inland 35 at Snaygill Ings on 21st March with 30 at Wath Ings on 9th April after 31 on 26th March. 25 at Fairburn Ings on 12th April; 20 at Gouthwaite on 25th March and 50+ in the Ribble valley on 28th March. 18 at Swillington Ings on 22nd November with 21 there on 28th December.

#### **Greenshank *Tringa nebularia***

I reported from Fairburn Ings on 4 days in January and 7 during both February and March with 1 at Ringstone Edge Res. on 4th March.

Spring passage generally light though an exceptional flock of 30 at Sunk Island on 9th May (JW). 6 at Beacon Lane Ponds, Kilnsea also on 9th May with 6 at Bank Island, Wheldrake on 28th April. 5 at Blacktoft on 3rd May with 5 at Flamborough on 5th. Otherwise many locations reported 1-2 birds on at least 1 day of spring.

Returning birds noted from mid June, all single birds except for 13 at Wintersett on 27th. More widespread in July with 8 at Spurn on 14th and 11 on 19th; 11 also at Kilnsea on 28th. 3 at Hornsea Mere on 19th with up to 4 at Blacktoft during the month. Many locations reported birds during August with 9 at Flamborough on 12th; 13 at Riccall on 14th; 14 at Blacktoft on 14th; 16 at Fairburn on 24th; 10 at Wath on 12th with 15 there on 27th. 7 at Aldwarke S.F. from 7th August until 19th September. 8 at Cherry Cobb on 13th September with up to 8 at Fairburn Ings during this month and 7 at Swillington on 28th; 6 at Scalby Mills on 3rd. 17 at Bolton-on-Swale on 10th September after 7 on 21st August.

1-2 at several locations during October and in November at Sunk Island until 7th, Cherry Cobb until 8th with Fairburn Ings occasionally reporting 1 until the end of the year.

8 south at Hornsea on 12th August with 6 southeast at Spurn on 19th July where 7 came in from the southeast on 13th August and 5 off the sea on 26th; 11 south at Bempton on 25th.

#### **Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus***

2 at Bielby throughout January (PD); 2 at Pulfin Bog on 8th January and 8th February (PMS) with 1 on many days during these months. 2 remained at Northallerton S.W. from 1986 into February. Wath Ings reported 1-3 birds into March whilst 2 were also reported from Apperley Bridge; Newholm Dean and Edderthorpe on at least 1 occasion with many other locations reporting odd birds particularly in V.C. 63. 4 at North Duffield on 10th March.

Spring passage very light with few locations reporting birds; 5 at Spurn on 17th April and 6 at Wath Ings on 22nd. Returning birds from late June with 10 at Tophill Low Res. by 9th July; 10 to 15 there during the remainder of that month; 13 at Melbourne on 15th. In August 10 to 17 at Tophill Low Res. with 18 on 24th and 16 still present on 2nd September with the last bird on 11th October. 9 at Burstwick on 18th July.

Blacktoft, in V.C. 63, reported their first bird on 20th June having 12 by 25th July; 15 on 24th August; up to 7 during September; 1-3 in October until 22nd. The first at Wath Ings was on 26th June increasing to 12 by 30th July and 22 on 27th August; a similar count on 6th September after which decreased to 1-4 during October with birds remaining until the end of the year. 1-4 at Fairburn from 21st June until mid October with 9 on 10th July and 8 during August.

Over wintering birds reported from Swinemoor, on 29th November; Northallerton with 2 to the end of the year; 2 at Wheldrake on 23rd November; 2 at both Knostrop S.F. and Mickletown Ings during both November and December with 1 at Bielby; Esholt; Gouthwaite; Apperley Bridge and the Ribble valley during either November or December.

**Wood Sandpiper** *Tringa glareola*

First at Blacktoft on 24th April and Aughton on 25th with birds at Filey; Flamborough; Fairburn and Nosterfield before the end of the month. Widespread in May being one of the best spring passages for many years. Almost daily at Fairburn with 2 on many days and 4 on 7th; 4 at Blacktoft on 8th with 2 on 10th; 2 at Staveley on 17th whilst Tophill Low Res.; Spurn; Filey; Nosterfield; Bolton-on-Swale; Skipton S.W.; Broomhill Flash and Wintersett Res. all reported 1 bird on 1 or more days. Less in June though 6 at Spurn on 21st but otherwise only 1 bird at Wombwell Ings on 2nd/3rd; Nosterfield on 6th and 10th; Fairburn Ings on 18th. In July 2 at Melbourne on 18th; at Holme-on-Spalding Moor on 23rd; at Burstwick on 19th; Bolton Slurry on 20th; at Fairburn Ings on 29th; Swinsty Res. on 19th and 3 at Blacktoft on 23rd. Widespread in August with 2 at Flamborough on 27th; Tophill Low Res. on 23rd and Blacktoft between 14th and 26th whilst up to 4 were at Staveley. Fewer records during September though 3 at Catwick on 2nd; 5 at Blacktoft on 4th and 2 at Aldwarke S.F. from 2nd to 7th. The last bird being reported from Oxendyke Ings on 23rd October (DW).

**Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos*

A single adult with 1 chick approximately two thirds grown and with down on the head was noted at Catwick on 25th July where on the previous day an adult was recorded with 3 chicks. This would appear to be the first breeding record for the eastern part of V.C. 61 and possibly for the V.C. as a whole. 1 pair on the River Rye near Helmsley in early June, may have bred. V.C. 63 reported breeding as widespread and of average success whilst in V.C. 64 a good breeding season was reported from the high ground locations though poor from the lower areas; no significant reports from V.C. 65.

The first of the year were single birds at the Rother Valley C.P. and Hampsthwaite on 8th April with the next at Midhope Res. on 10th. Spring peaks were low with 13 at Gouthwaite Res. and 7 at Hornsea Mere. Common and widespread in autumn with 16 at Tophill Low Res. on 19th July; 11 at Filey on 22nd August; 13 at Scalby Mills on 24th. Inland 10 at Wath Ings on 21st with Gouthwaite holding by far the highest numbers having 40 on 14th June and 58 on 12th July though only 15 remaining on 29th July. Reported in October from Riccall on 13th and Wath Ings on 14th whilst an overwintering individual was reported on 11th; 12th; 14th and 30th December at Apperley Bridge (and into 1988).

**Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres*

Poor year along the coast with monthly maxima at Filey of 13 in January; 60 in February and 26 in March; Spurn, in these months had maxima of 32, 82 and 48 whilst Flamborough had 14 in January and 35 in February. 105 near Bridlington on 24th January with 255 there on 24th February; 80 at Scalby Mills on 11th February. Slightly higher counts in autumn with 225 at Spurn on 26th July; 120 on 8th and 10th August. 99 at Staithes on 3rd September with up to 71 at Filey during October. 34 flew south at Spurn on 1st August.

Small counts along the Humber with 29 at Paull on 3rd January; up to 3 at Blacktoft during spring, 5 flying west there on 17th July then up to 3 to late November. 4 at Wath Ings on 23rd August with 1 there; at Wintersett Res.; Angler's and Pugney's on 1 other occasion. 3 at Fairburn on 28th May; 2 there on 24th; 2 at Farnham on 29th July; 2 at Gouthwaite on 17th August whilst 1 at Fairburn on several spring dates; Swillington Ings on 7th June; Nosterfield on 2nd and 23rd May; 14th/15th July.

**Red-necked Phalarope** *Phalaropus lobatus*

Single bird on small pond at Covenham (V.C. 65) on 15th June (Miss LH). Female at Blacktoft Sands on 11th and 12th June (AG *et al*) with a juvenile at Bolton Slurry (Wath) on 27th August (JMT: IMW *et al*). Immature on the sea off Flamborough on 2nd and 3rd December (PAL).

**Grey Phalarope** *Phalaropus fulicarius*

A single bird at Filey on 23rd; 25th and 28th February (PJD *et al*) and possibly the same bird at Flamborough on 1st March (PAL *et al*). Singles at Flamborough on 26th and 30th September (PAL *et al*) and flying north off Hornsea on 3rd November (BR) and south there on 6th December (GRB).

**Pomarine Skua** *Stercorarius pomarinus*

Singles off Spurn on 7th January; Flamborough on 7th February and Hornsea on 27th March. The next being off Filey on 6th and 21st June (HJW: DJW: JH). 1 at Filey on 23rd July with Flamborough and Hornsea recording birds on 6 days of this month and Spurn daily from 27th to 30th. Flamborough recording 6 on 30th, Hornsea 5 on 25th and 7 on both 26th and 27th. Almost daily during August at Flamborough with a total of 408 birds whilst Hornsea recorded 202 and Spurn 24. Flamborough having 26 on 2nd; 78 on 5th; 50 on 6th; 28 on 8th; 30 on 10th; 17 on 11th; 20 on 15th; 18 on 16th; 11 on 21st and 22 on 22nd. 23 at Hornsea on 5th; 40 on 6th. 1 south at Long Nab on 5th is the only record on the coast away from V.C. 61. In September smaller numbers with 132 off Flamborough and 10 off Spurn (no watches at Hornsea). Peak counts at Flamborough being 17 on 12th; 11 on 13th; 14 on 19th and 10 on 30th. Recorded on 15 days at Flamborough in October with 6 on 11th and 5 on 16th; 4 north at Hornsea on 18th; 4 north at Spurn on 30th. Noted on 8 days in November at Flamborough and 4 at Hornsea with 5 at Flamborough on 1st; 2 on 14th and 3 on 21st whilst Hornsea had 3 on 23rd and 2 on 24th. 1 north at Spurn on 24th. 1 at Flamborough on 6th December being the last of the year.

Inland, an adult over the confluence of the Trent and Ouse at Blacktoft on 16th October no doubt the same bird seen flying west there on 17th (AG *et al*).

**Arctic Skua** *Stercorarius parasiticus*

1 flying east at Sunk Island on 19th April was also reported at Spurn where it flew out to sea joining 2 others. 2 at Spurn on 20th and 26th April. In May; 2 at Flamborough on 4th; 1 at Hornsea on 12th; 1 at Spurn on 13th with 3 flying east at Sunk Island on 16th and 1 at Bempton that day. 1 at Spurn on 22nd and at Filey on 24th. In June 2 at Hornsea on 24th otherwise 1 at Spurn on 13th and 29th; Flamborough on 4th and 20th; Bempton on 23rd whilst inland a dark phased adult flew over Barden Moor on 7th.

Daily along the coast from mid July to mid October with a total of 5692 off Flamborough; 1304 off Filey; 773 off Hornsea in July/August. Flamborough reported 58 on 25th July with 47 on 26th; in August, 170 on 1st; 174 on 5th; 152 on 7th; 141 on 8th; 195 on 14th; 266 on 15th; 458 on 16th; 297 on 21st; 287 on 22nd; 650 on 23rd; 213 on 24th and 175 on 31st. Spurn during this month had up to 25 in the first two weeks; 184 on 22nd; 272 on 23rd; 104 on 24th and 104 on 27th. Hornsea; 158 on 23rd and 94 on 27th; Filey 270 on 23rd with 140 on 7th. In September; Staithes reported 68 south on 1st; 115 on 2nd and 335 on 3rd; Flamborough 52 on 2nd; 163 on 5th; 97 on 7th; 314 on 12th; 89 on 13th and 90 on 26th; Filey 165 on 5th and 80 on 26th. 42 at Spurn on 5th; 72 on 12th and 42 on 26th. 100 south and 11 north at Staithes on 13th. Few during October with 14 at Spurn on 16th; Flamborough having 26 on 11th; 64 on 16th and 37 on 18th. 4 at Flamborough on 1st November; 1 at Spurn the same day with 1 at Filey on 6th December.

Quite frequent along the Humber with Sunk Island recording 3 on 9th August; 3 on 23rd; 3 west on 11th October; 2 west on 17th and 1 west on 15th November (JW). 1 west at Paull on 4th July (SML); 2 west at Blacktoft on 12th July with 1 on 22nd August (east); 13th September (south) and on the river on 22nd November (AG *et al*). A dark adult west over Swillington Ings on 23rd August with a juvenile at Nosterfield; Staveley and Eccup Res. on 30th August (many obs).

**Long-tailed Skua *Stercorarius longicaudus***

Again the year's count is the highest for the county this century. A total of 147 birds being reported of which 127 were at Flamborough; 11 at Hornsea; 6 at Filey; 2 at Scarborough and 1 at Spurn.

In June, single adults at Flamborough on 17th (AMA) and Filey on 21st (JH: HJW: DJW *et al*). Single adults off Hornsea on the 25th and 26th July (GRB) with a 2nd summer bird at Flamborough on 28th (AMA).

Recorded almost daily in August; Flamborough having a 2nd summer bird on 1st; 1st summer on 3rd (PAL); 2 2nd summer on 5th (AMA); 5 adults plus 1st summer on 6th (AMA: PAL); 2 adults and 1 immature on 7th (JCL: PAL: SRS); 5 adults and 2 immatures on 8th (AMA: DGH: PAL *et al*); 4 adults and 1 immature on 9th (AMA: JCL); 1st summer on 10th (PAL: JCL); 5 adults and 3 immatures on 11th (PAL); 2 adults and 2 immatures on 15th (AMA: DGH: JCL *et al*); adult on 17th (JCL: PAL); 2nd summer on 19th (JCL: PAL); adult on 20th (AMA); 4 adults and 5 immatures on 21st (JCL: PAL); 2 adults and 1 immature on 22nd (JCL: PAL); 4 adults, 3 immatures and 1 juvenile on 23rd (AMA: DGH: JCL: PAL); 2 adults on 24th; 2 adults on 25th (DH: PAL); juvenile on 27th (JCL); 1st summer and juvenile on 29th (AMA: DGH); 4 adults and 2 juveniles on 30th (AMA: PAL) with 8 adults, 1 1st year; 2 2nd year; 2 juveniles and 2 not aged on 31st (JCL: PAL *et al*). Hornsea, during this month, reported an immature on 5th (GRB); immature on 11th (GRB); 1 adult plus immature on 22nd (GRB); adult and immature on 24th (GRB); adult on 26th (WFC); adult and immature on 27th (GRB); Filey with 2 adults on 5th (SC: DB: SH); a moulting adult on 10th (GC: GT); adult off Scarborough on 23rd (RHA) and another on 26th (GC: GT: RT). Adult at Filey on 30th.

September produced at Flamborough, an adult on 1st (DH:AS); adult; immature and juvenile on 2nd (DH: JCL: PAL); 2 adults and 2 juveniles on 5th (JCL: PAL: SR); 2 juveniles on 10th (JCL); 2 juveniles on 11th (JCL); 2 juveniles and 1 1st year on 12th (AMA: JCL: PAL); juvenile on 13th (AMA); adult on 16th (PAL); 3 adults and 1 unaged on 19th (AMA:DGH:PAL); unaged on 20th (DGH: PAL); juvenile on 23rd (JCL: PAL); 3 juveniles on 26th (AMA: DGH); 4 juveniles on 27th (AMA:DGH); juvenile on 28th (JCL: PAL); juvenile on 29th (PAL) and 3 adults and immature on 30th (PAL). Adult at Filey on 5th still present the following morning (AB: PJD: HJW *et al*). 1 unaged bird south at Spurn on 12th.

In October single juveniles on 9th and 11th (AMA: PAL: SRS) with an immature on 1st November and late juvenile on 27th (AMA: PAL), all at Flamborough.

**Great Skua *Stercorarius skua***

Recorded in January from Hornsea on 10th; Filey on 17th and Flamborough with 2 on 11th; 3 on 18th and 1 on 28th. Singles at Flamborough on 14th and 19th February. 1 at Hornsea on 18th and 27th March; 1 at Bridlington on 4th April with 2 at Flamborough that day and 1 there on 12th. 5 at Flamborough on 4th May; 1 on 10th and 16th with 2 on 21st and 23rd; 2 at Bempton on 16th; 1 at Spurn on 21st; 22nd and 24th. 3 at Flamborough on 20th June with 2 on 21st.

Became widespread from mid July with 123 off Flamborough that month and 35 at Hornsea; 16 at Flamborough on 25th; 21 on 26th; 13 on 28th and 36 on 30th. 18 at Hornsea on 26th. A total of 1376 at Flamborough in August and smaller numbers elsewhere along the coast. Up to 50 daily at Flamborough in the first week of this month with 81 on 6th; 101 on 8th; 90 on 9th; 57 on 10th then 88 on 15th; 173 on 16th; 122 on 23rd and 69 on 24th. 42 at Filey on 7th with 32 on 23rd; 12 at Spurn on 23rd and 27th; 16 at Hornsea on 27th whilst at Scarborough 56 flew north on 24th.

Daily at Flamborough in September with a total of 785 including 50 on 8th; 48 on 10th; 102 on 12th; 50 on 19th; 111 on 26th and 64 on 27th. Filey recorded 126 south on 26th with 13 at Spurn that day. Numbers decreased by October with 251 during the month at Flamborough, peaks being 41 on 11th; 87 on 16th and 32 on 18th; 7 at Spurn on 11th and 27th being the highest counts away from Flamborough. Recorded on 13 days in November at Flamborough with 22 on 1st; 21 on 14th; 25 on 20th and 27 on

21st and 24th. 10 at Hornsea on 24th. The last birds recorded being 5 at Hornsea on 25th; 1 at Spurn on 26th; 4 at Flamborough on 4th December and 1 at Filey on 28th.

Away from the coast; 1 at Cherry Cobb on 4th October; Stone Creek on 11th; 2 at Sunk Island on 3rd flying east; 1 there on 4th; 10th and 11th with 3 on 17th. 2 over the Ouse at Blacktoft on 16th with 4 southwest over Redmires Res. on 16th and 1 southeast over the Rother Valley C.P. on 22nd August.

1 west over Pen Hill (Wensleydale) on 17th September.

#### **Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus***

Becoming more widespread; reported from Spurn on 23rd February; 19th April; 28th and 30th May; 2nd and 29th June; 20th August. In the vicinity of Spurn from Kilnsea on 3rd September and 3rd October with 1 at Easington on 26th October and 6th July. The 'local' bird at Hornsea reported almost daily from 3rd January until 29th March and again from 22nd October until the end of the year. This bird was also reported on several occasions from Hornsea Mere with a second bird there on 19th December and a 2nd winter individual flying north on 27th November. Flamborough recorded birds on 10th and 16th May (1st summer); 2nd summer on 11th July with adults on 10th August; 4th and 16th September; 12th October; 8th November and 2nd December. 2nd winter birds on 1st October; 13th October; 17th and 18th November. 2nd winter bird at Sunk Island on 10th October. Inland, an adult at Wheldrake Ings on 27th and 28th March with a 1st winter bird on 14th April. Tophill Low Res. had an adult on 14th November and again on 29th. No records from V.C. 62.

Inland in V.C. 63 single birds were reported from Pugney's (adults) on 31st January/1st February; 7th and 14th March with a 1st winter bird on 28th February (PH: PS: MB: IB). Wintersett Res., 1st winter on 4th and 7th February (SD); Blackmoorfoot Res. an adult from 28th February to 2nd March (JMPi *et al*); and again on 3rd; 12th; 19th to 21st December (MLD: JMPi: PLM *et al*). Blacktoft with a 2nd summer bird on 25th August; Redmires Res. a 1st winter on 17th December (RDH); an adult at Damflask Res. on 30th December (MGO) and a 1st winter bird at Ardsley Res. on 10th January (JM *et al*).

In V.C. 64; 1st winter at Fairburn Ings from 13th January to 11th March (TDC *et al*) with another on 1st and 7th November (CW); Eccup Res., an adult on 22nd; 25th/26th January, 1st February; a 2nd winter bird on 13th March; a 1st winter on 1st; 3rd; 21st; 28th February and 8th March with another 1st winter individual on 1st and 12th March (ASB: RCH: SPS *et al*). 1st winter at Knotford Nook on 1st and 9th March (KM: PJC). Adult at Eccup Res. from 12th to 15th December and 20th (PJW *et al*).

In V.C. 65, adult birds at Bolton-on-Swale on 2nd/3rd January; 5th; 7th and 13th March; Leighton Res. on 8th; 14th and 28th February; Thornton Steward Res. on 23rd February; 17th/18th and 24th March and at Masham G.P. on 6th/7th and 10th July.

#### **Little Gull *Larus minutus***

Along the coast; Spurn reported smaller numbers than in recent years; Hornsea had a very good year whilst Flamborough a record one.

Few in January with 2 at Hornsea on 4th and 26th and 1 at Flamborough; Filey and Scarborough. 5 at Hornsea on 7th and 14th February with 1 inland at Farnley, Leeds on 9th. Singles in March at Hornsea on 27th/28th and Flamborough on 30th. More widespread in April with 16 south at Spurn on 18th; 17 northeast there on 22nd; 8 east on 28th. 8 north at Filey on 18th whilst inland 1 at Fairburn Ings on 6th with 8 north on 22nd; 4 northeast at Thrybergh the same day. 6 at Fairburn on 23rd. 23 north at Hornsea on 12th May with 11 at Tophill Low Res. on 31st. 15 there on 5th June with 10 on 12th and 14 on 21st with a similar count across the River Hull at Hempholme on 20th.

During late summer/autumn numbers built up at Hornsea Mere from 6 on 3rd July to 12 on 11th/12th with influx to 49 on 15th; 68 on 17th and 78 on 18th levelling off with 92 on 1st August. Numbers during August between 73 and 96 until 23rd when 288 counted (the result of strong onshore winds and is the highest count for this water);

down to 74 on 25th and 22 on 26th; 184 on 28th; 168 on 29th; 172 on 30th and 182 on 31st. Lower numbers during September with 32 on 5th; 92 on 19th and 13 on 29th; 14 on 10th October. Along the coast at Hornsea recorded daily from 5th July to late October with 35 on 14th July; 214 on 25th. 90 on 4th August; 16 on 5th and 51 on 6th with 150 on 8th after which numbers fluctuated; high counts being 168 on 22nd; 260 on 24th; 168 on 25th; 320 on 26th; 298 on 27th and 162 on 28th. Few counts in September with 62 on 7th as most. October saw offshore passage with 174 north on 17th and 153 mainly south on 18th. Few in November excepting 45 north on 23rd and 44 north on 24th. Assuming not all birds in this area were counted twice then several days had more than 300 present for instance 25th July when 214 over the sea; 76 at the Mere and 88 at Catwick (6 miles inland).

Flamborough recorded 109 on 28th August with 58 on 29th and 49 on 31st. Peak counts in September being 107 on 7th; 116 on 8th; 103 on 10th; 154 on 15th and 136 on 19th. Reported on 19 days in October with a total of 9490 being counted; 141 on 11th; 123 on 13th; 237 on 15th; 2886 on 16th; 4002 on 17th; 322 on 18th; 1130 on 19th and 326 on 20th (the 4002 being the highest daily count ever recorded in Yorkshire). This massive passage was not reported anywhere else along the coast. Filey having 44 south on 10th October and 39 at the Brigg on 15th November. Spurn also reported small numbers during this period in contrast to recent years with 20 on 16th October; 38 on 30th and 31 on 31st; 31 on 1st November and 15 on 22nd.

18 at Scarborough on 23rd August being the highest count in V.C. 62. Inland in V.C. 63, 2 at Broomhill Flash on 22nd July; at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 27th and Blacktoft Sands on 13th September with 5 there on 16th September. Single birds reported from Blacktoft in July; Wintersett Res.; Pugney's and Angler's Lake in August; Blackmoorfoot Res.; Angler's; Pugney's and Thrybergh Res. in September and in October from Pugney's and the Rother Valley C.P.

8 at Fairburn Ings on 22nd July with 4 there on 18th August; adult at Eccup Res. on 10th August. 1 at Nosterfield on 22nd August and 1 flying west along the Swale on 22nd November.

#### **Sabine's Gull *Larus sabini***

Flamborough recorded adults on 2nd August (BR); 10th (PAL); 23rd (PAL); 24th (AMA) and 31st (AMA: PAL). A juvenile on 2nd September (PAL) with a 2nd winter individual daily from 5th to 18th (PAL: AMA: JCL: SR *et al*) and what may have been the same bird at Barmston on 13th (DW) and south off Hornsea on 19th (SML). Juveniles at Flamborough on 19th (PAL: AMA) and 20th (MN) with a 2nd winter individual on 25th. 2 adults south at Filey on 26th (PJD: PMS:HJW *et al*) no doubt the same birds reported at Flamborough later that day (AMA: DGH). 3 adults north off Hornsea on 16th October (GRB) with another on 18th (DB: DS *et al*). Adult at Spurn on 3rd August with a juvenile south there on 27th October. Juvenile off Scalby Mills on 25th September (DB).

Away from the coast, an adult west at Blacktoft Sands on 16th October (AG) whilst 1 reported at Southfield Res. on 20th (AS); 1 roosted at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 22nd (MLD). A 2nd winter bird at Chelker Res. from 20th to 23rd October (MP *et al*).

#### **Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus***

Healthy breeding population along the Lower Derwent/Pocklington Canal with 150 pairs at North Duffield and 250 at Aughton (no counts from Wheldrake Ings). 50 pairs at Strensall Common and 1 at Broomfleet Ponds (a new location). Successfully bred in V.C. 64 at Fairburn Ings; Mickletown Ings; Knostrop S.F. and Upper Barden Res. with over 500 pairs being involved raising at least 600 young. Attempted breeding in V.C. 63 at 1 (possibly 2) locations near Huddersfield and 1 near Sheffield.

Small numbers along the Humber at Sunk Island with only 500 in the early months. 2500 on 18th July increased to 12000 by 19th September; 9000 at Cherry Cobb on 20th September. Wheldrake Ings reported 10000 on 3rd January with 36000 on 1st March and 10000 on 10th March. 12900 at Tophill Low Res. in January with up to 9000 in

March; 12000 in October; 12000 in November and 5000 in December. Passage along the coast reported from Flamborough with 1073 on 19th September; 2138 on 26th and 2662 on 29th.

Inland counts recorded were 7000 at Pugney's on 31st January; 5000 there on 1st March. 5000 at Blacktoft during January with 20000 on 4th October. 5000 at Broomhead Res. early January, 11500 on 29th December (record for this location). 6000 at Wintersett Res. 6th December; 5000+ at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 12th February and similar count on 28th November; 6500 at Thrybergh Res. on 18th January. 10000 at Southfield Res. on 9th December. In V.C. 64; 15000 at Eccup Res. on 8th January; 18000 on 28th November; 10000 at Swinsty Res. on 31st December and 5000 at Fairburn Ings on 10th March. Bolton-on-Swale, in V.C. 65, held 13000 on 22nd February with 14000 on 1st November; Locker Tarn 2000 on 24th April.

Addition to 1986 report: 320 pairs at Masham G.P. and 40 pairs at Newton-le-Willows.

#### **Ring-billed Gull *Larus delawarensis***

Addition to the 1985 report: Single bird at Redmires Res. on 19th October (PAA: JSH).

#### **Common Gull *Larus canus***

No proven breeding though a pair were in the Black-headed Gull colony at Upper Barden Res. all summer.

2000 at Filey on 17th January an isolated peak whilst still quite scarce at Flamborough with 602 on 26th September maximum there. 1200 at Hornsea on 10th January and 2100 on 18th; 1200 at Kilnsea on 23rd February. 1240 flying east at Sunk Island on 19th April with 1500 there on 19th September. 1200 on Hornsea beach on 28th November. 1500 at Wheldrake Ings on 10th March; 1000 at Dringhouses on 11th. Good numbers at Tophill Low Res. with monthly maxima of 4300 in January; 6500 in February; 6300 in March; 2500 in October. 15000 in November and 7000 during December. 1000 flying to roost over Blacktoft Sands during January being the highest count from V.C. 63. Only Eccup Res. in V.C. 64 reported large numbers with 6000+ on 8th January; c3000 in February and March; 5000 on 4th/5th April; 3000 on 1st October; 4000 on 28th November and 5000 on 9th December.

An albino in Hull docks on 13th April.

Single birds showing the characteristics of the Central Russian/West Siberian race *L.c.heinei* were reported from Flamborough on 21st January; Staveley on 15th February; Hornsea on 6th December and Hornsea Mere on 11th.

Correction to 1986 Report: 2000 at Bolton-on-Swale G.P. on 9th April (not August).

#### **Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus***

Small numbers on V.C. 61 coast with only Spurn reporting more than 20; 28 there at the end of June; 57 on 10th July and 50 on 23rd August. Very few reported from V.C. 62. In the York area, good numbers from Brighton Tip with 125 on 23rd August; 470 on 29th increasing to 870 on 5th September with 450 on 19th.

Low counts in V.C. 63 during the early months. 1200 near Blacktoft on 5th October; 323 at Winscar Res. on 21st with up to 400 at Wintersett Res. in this month and 250 up to mid November. 200 to 400 at Redmires Res. in September. 500 at Southfield Res. on 12th October. A similar situation occurred in V.C. 64 and V.C. 65 with highest counts in the early months of 197 at Eccup Res. on 26th March and 250+ on 5th April. In Autumn, 508 at Bolton-on-Swale on 9th July; 2500+ at Masham on 10th September and 560+ at Eccup Res. on 22nd October.

Birds showing the characteristics of one of the Scandinavian races *L.f.fuscus* or *L.f.intermedius* were reported from many locations during the year. A 'good passage off Hornsea in autumn'. 28 north at Bridlington on 4th April. 1-3 at 8 locations in V.C. 63 in the first 3 and last 5 months of the year. 25 at Masham on 24th August.

**Herring Gull** *Larus argentatus*

c950 occupied nests at Bempton (RSPB); no reports from further north along the coast. 1 pair bred at Upper Barden Res. rearing 1 young.

Highest counts along the coast being 3195 off Flamborough on 11th January with 1800 there on 22nd and 2000 on 5th February. Up to 1000 following fishing vessels into Filey during the latter months. Coastal passage light with the exception of 28th March when 1688 south at Hornsea and 1350 at Spurn. 1500 flying to roost past Cherry Cobb on 20th September. Locations in V.C. 63 reporting more than 1000 were Broomhead Res. with c1000 during early January and 2000 on 29th December; Shirecliffe Tip with 1000 on 5th January and 1605 on 31st December; Blacktoft Sands with up to 1000 during the early months and 1500 towards the end of the year. In V.C. 64, Eccup Res. had 1000 on 8th January with no other location reporting more than 650 (at Fairburn Ings on 14th.) In V.C. 65, 1950 at Bolton-on-Swale on 1st January.

4 yellow-legged birds at Redmires Res. on various days between 11th August and 5th October with 1 at Spurn on 28th October and at Scorton Quarry on 19th July. One found dying at Ardsley Res. on 11th January was, from biometrics, found to belong to either the race *L.a. michahellis* or *L.a. cachinnans*, most likely the former. A single adult at Flamborough on 17th January was considered to belong to the race *L.a. heuglini*, from northwestern Russia whilst another there on 26th December was either of this race or the more easterly *L.a. taimyrensis*.

**Iceland Gull** *Larus glaucopterus*

2nd year bird at Spurn on 16th March and 8th April; 1st winter at Hornsea Mere on 17th January; 2nd winter bird on the coast at Hornsea on 20th February and an adult on 18th October (GRB). 1 at Flamborough on 3rd; 7th; 11th and 29th January; 5th; 11th 14th and 19th February with 2 on 7th and 3 on 22nd. (PAL *et al*). 2 1st winter birds at Filey on 7th February with 1 on 5 other days until the 24th; an adult on 21st (PJD: JH *et al*). 1 at Scarborough on 2nd and 6th January; 29th November and 6th December; 1 at Staithes on 17th February (PB: MFr: RHN: MJH *et al*). 1st winter in Hull docks on 15th March (EWC) and an oiled 1st winter bird near Heworth on 23rd November (RHA).

In V.C. 63 reported from Pugney's with an adult on 1st; 3rd; 16th and 31st January; between 11th and 14th February plus a 1st winter bird from 16th to 18th and 22nd January. In December a 1st winter bird from 11th to 13th and on 19th and 24th (RPC: SD: PH: DP: PS *et al*). At Ardsley Res., 1st winter birds on 1st; 3rd; 7th/8th January; 8th February with adults on 7th January and 14th February whilst in the latter months 1st winter birds were recorded on 6th to 8th; 12th; 23rd/24th and 31st December with an adult on 24th (JM:DWo: MW *et al*). At Wintersett, a 1st winter on 20th January (GC: KB: KD) and 24th November (SD) with an adult on 25th to 27th November (SD). Wath Ings reported a 1st winter bird on 19th and 25th March (SR: DMW) with another on 25th December. 1 flew east at Blacktoft on 18th February (AG) whilst 1 was reported from Broomhill Flash on 28th November (NWA); Shroggs Tip (Halifax) on 8th December (MH); Blackmoorfoot Res. on 2nd and 20th December (MLD), and Stairfoot Tip on 24th (NWA).

V.C. 64 reported fewer than for many years with an adult at Eccup Res. remaining from 1986 being recorded on 8 days during January plus 1st; 23rd and 28th February, 16th; 21st/22nd and 29th March and finally 2nd April. 1st winter birds here on 1st February and 5th December. The adult from Eccup also reported at Knotford Nook on 1st; 3rd; 5th; 18th and 22nd March; 1st winter bird at Fairburn Ings on 14th January.

1st winter birds at Bolton-on-Swale on 7th/8th; 11th and 20th March with an adult on 5th and 7th March.

### Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus*

Reported along the coast during both winters with 1-2 birds generally involved though 3 at Bridlington on 4th January; an adult and 3 1st winter birds at Filey in the first 2 months with all 4 present on 24th January. 3 at Flamborough on 3rd January with 11 on 10th and 10 on 11th; 6 on 24th and 7 on 22nd February. Reported during May from Catwick on 8th; Flamborough on 17th; 2 different birds at Spurn on 25th and 26th; Hornsea on 4th and from 8th July to 25th. Few recorded during the latter months of the year.

In V.C. 62 only 1 bird on 4 days at Scarborough during January/February; a very poor year. V.C. 63 reported 2 at Monkton Tip on 19th January with 1st winter birds widespread from January/March, being recorded from Wath Ings; Southfield Res.; Wintersett Res.; Stairfoot Tip; Broadstones Res.; Pugney's; Shirecliffe Tip; Thorpe Marsh; Carcroft Tip; Ardsley Res. and Blacktoft. Occasional 2nd winter and adults were reported in this period. In the latter part of the year birds were only reported in December from Ardsley Res.; Ingbirchworth Res.; Pugney's; Wintersett Res.; Wath Ings; Monkton Tip; Shirecliffe Tip and Broomhead Res., all were 1st winter birds except for 2nd winter individuals at Ardsley Res on 7th/8th; 12th/13th and 19th and at Ingbirchworth Res. on 31st.

A very poor year in V.C. 64 with only Eccup Res. and Fairburn Ings reporting birds: Eccup having 1st winter individuals on 8 days in January; 17th February with a 2nd winter on 13th March and adult on 25th January. Fairburn Ings a 1st winter on 3rd January; 20th to 28th with 2 on 29th and 31st; 1 on 20th February; 7th; 9th/10th and 20th March with 2 on 8th; 14th/15th and 22nd whilst on 19th an adult plus the 2 1st winter birds were present.

1 at Bolton-on-Swale from 13th to 16th January and 4th/5th April.

A Glaucous x Great Black-backed Gull hybrid reported Flamborough on 30th May (AMA) whilst Glaucous x Herring Gull hybrids were reported from Bridlington (1st winter) on 2nd January (PB); from Eccup Res. on 7th February (1st winter) (SPS) and an oiled 3rd winter bird at Ardsley Res. on 8th March (JM).

### Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*

The only locations to report more than 1000 were Flamborough with 1200 on 17th October and 1160 on 25th; Eccup Res. 1050 on 8th January and Fairburn Ings with 1000 on 24th November. Fewer than usual along the coast particularly during the early months with 170 at Flamborough on 14th March being the highest count. 137 south at Hornsea on 28th March. 200 at Cherry Cobb on 17th January with 150 at Sunk Island on 10th. 700 at Tophill Low Res. on 2nd January with 540 on 4th whilst Wheldrake Ings reported 450+ on 4th and 500+ on 7th; 220 at Brighton Tip on 10th. Up to 250 at Spurn during August and September with 200 there in October/November. Hornsea Mere recorded up to 700 in November and between 125 and 650 in December. 300 at Filey in October; 300 at Tophill Low Res. on 30th November; up to 250 at both Cherry Cobb and Sunk Island during these latter months. No records received from V.C. 62.

V.C. 63 also had lower than usual counts with 550 northwest over Wath Ings on 29th December and 500 at Blacktoft on 5th October. Between 100 and 400 were occasionally reported from Broomhead Res.; Shirecliffe Tip; Pugney's; Wath Ings; Blackmoorfoot Res. and Wintersett Res.

Apart from the four-figure counts at Eccup and Fairburn above; Eccup also recorded 291 on 2nd January with 220 on 9th December whilst Fairburn Ings had 550 on 14th January; 350 on 10th March and up to 700 in December.

575 at Bolton-on-Swale on 1st January.

### Ross's Gull *Rhodostethia rosea*

Single adults reported from Flamborough on 10th August (DGH) and 30th September (PAL).

Both records are under consideration by the *British Birds Rarities Committee*.

### Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*

The Bempton colony was estimated, by the RSPB, to contain 75000 occupied nests whilst Flamborough reported the breeding colony 'slightly down on previous years'. 31 occupied nests counted on buildings overlooking Bridlington harbour whilst 1780 nests counted on Scarborough Castle Hill on 13th June.

High counts in the vicinity of these breeding colonies with 1470 off Flamborough on 14th February; 13475 on 29th March; 15100 on 12th April; 29000 on 18th July. No total counts reported from Filey but hourly rates there were 560 on 7th March; 2400 on 31st; 10000 on 23rd April and 15000 on 25th. Hornsea had peaks of 1082 on 15th May; 1651 on 23rd May; 1715 on 26th July with 1780 on 27th (all north). 1450 at Spurn on 3rd May with 1020 on 5th August. Small numbers along the Humber with 19 east and 7 west at Sunk Island on 15th November; 14 west and 16 east at Hull on 27th March; 20 adults east at Blacktoft on 29th May.

Inland, 6 north at Wintersett Res. on 18th January; 3 at Wath Ings on 6th March; 2 there on 19th with 2 at Worsborough Res. on 11th April; 2 at Redmires Res. on 11th April. Occurrences of 1 bird at many locations during all months except January; September and December in V.C. 63.

In V.C. 64, 90 at Malham Tarn on 17th November with 10 at Fairburn on 8th May. 1-2 birds reported from Farnham; Eccup Res.; Knotford Nook; Gouthwaite Res. and Fairburn on several occasions. 1 at Thornton Steward on 1st November.

Addition to 1986 Report: 1 at Bolton-on-Swale on 5th March with 3 there on 1st November.

### Lesser Crested Tern *Sterna bengalensis*

A tern with an orange bill flew south at Flamborough on 9th August. The views obtained by the observers, D. Bradley; T. Davidson; R.C. Hart; M. Newsome and P.J. Willoughby were brief and on the descriptions provided for the Y.N.U. it was considered that other species were not conclusively eliminated. The record was accepted by the British Birds Rarities Committee as claimed on the basis that an individual of this species had been reported further north along the coast during the same month. The bird was accepted by the Y.N.U. as 'orange-billed tern'.

### Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*

First of the year was at Flamborough on 21st March with 4 at Filey on 26th and 1 there on 31st. Small numbers during April with maximum of 31 at Flamborough on 26th. Almost daily during May with peak counts of 83 south at Long Nab on 11th; up to 80 at Filey; 55 at Flamborough on 2nd and 45 at Hornsea on 22nd. Fewer in June with 45 off Flamborough as highest count.

Return passage from early July with many counts of over 100. 600 at Spurn on 15th; 211 at Hornsea on 28th and 256 on 31st; 376 at Filey on 18th; 400 at Flamborough on 19th; 330 on 25th and 386 on 26th. In August, 991 at Flamborough on 5th with 809 on 15th; 1281 on 16th and 818 on 22nd; Spurn reported 100-300 on most days with 560 on 1st and 700 on 22nd with 540 also south there that day. Hornsea, 392 on 1st; 570 south on 7th and 797 south on 22nd. In September; 759 at Flamborough on 7th with 1657 on 12th decreasing to 24 on 28th; Spurn had 800 on 7th with a further 776 flying south, 600 on 11th and 650 on 12th. Good southerly passage off Hornsea with 260 on 7th. In October only Flamborough recorded more than 10 in a day with 21 on 11th and 17 on 17th. Last being 1 at Flamborough on 5th November.

Regularly reported from the Humber with 18 at Sunk Island on 29th August; 2 at Blacktoft on 9th June and 1 there on several other days. Inland; 2 north at Pugney's on 21st April; 2 at Wintersett Res. on 11th and 22nd August; 1 there on 14th August; 2 at Southfield Res. on 30th September with 1 at Wath Ings on 25th April and Angler's on 15th October.

2 at Fairburn Ings on 26th April with 19 flying west there on 28th May. 1 at Baildon on 22nd July.

**Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii***

2 at Flamborough on 10th June with 1 there on 17th; 7th and 26th July (PAL *et al*). An adult north at Hornsea on 15th July (GRB). 1 at Spurn on 1st and 28th August. 2 at Flamborough on 15th and 16th August with 1 there on 11th; 17th; 20th and 30th and 28th September (PAL *et al*). 1 at Filey from 5th to 8th September with a second on 6th and another on 12th (PMS: HJW *et al*).

**Common Tern *Sterna hirundo***

1 pair bred at Hay-a-Park rearing 3 young; 5 pairs at Fairburn Ings, 4 of them rearing 11 young; 1 pair at Pugney's (no further details).

First of the year 1 west at Thorpe Marsh on 6th April with 1 at Hornsea on 12th. Only small numbers along the coast during spring; 8 at Hornsea in May being the maximum reported. In autumn 214 at Hornsea on 3rd August; 211 on 9th; 194 on 22nd and 138 on 23rd. 105 at Flamborough on 6th.

Many along the coast merely reported as 'commic' terns with 500 thus at Filey on 11th September; 629 at Flamborough on 5th August; 678 on 6th; 1002 on 16th; 530 on 29th with 335 on 7th September and 439 on 30th. Spurn recording 281 on 12th August.

In V.C. 63 recorded in April from Blackmoorfoot Res. on 26th; Wintersett Res. on 27th and Blacktoft on 29th. Thereafter reported from 20 locations until October, usually 1-3 involved but occasionally up to 7 with higher counts of 70 at Wintersett Res. on 28th May; 78 at Pugney's and 9 at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 8th. 10 at Wath Ings on 4th June; 11 at Pugney's on 12th August; 14 at Wintersett Res. on 14th with 22 at Blacktoft on 22nd. 1 at Whiteholme Res. on 29th September and Thrybergh and Blacktoft on 21st October.

First in V.C. 64 at Fairburn Ings on 19th April; 1-5 at several locations in May with 14 at Fairburn on 15th and 24 on 28th. In June 14 at Staveley on 21st and 8 at Knotford Nook the same day. 1-6 at 12 locations during autumn; 1 at Eccup Res. on 30th September and the last at Gouthwaite Res. on 31st October.

**Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea***

First at Rawmarsh (V.C. 63) on 8th April with 1 at Spurn on 12th. Light coastal passage with 25 at Flamborough on 10th May; 12 at Hornsea on 15th. Wheldrake Ings reported 18 on 14th whilst Fairburn Ings had 60 on 4th with 8 on 10th and 29th. 6 at Blacktoft on 22nd; 4 at Bedale on 23rd; 3 at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 28th and 5 at Pugney's on 12th.

Autumn passage along the coast produced 51 off Flamborough on 25th July; 70 on 31st; 199 on 2nd August; 100 on 3rd; 273 on 6th; 152 on 8th; 16 south at Hornsea on 22nd with 25 south there on 6th and 13th. In September 16 south at Staithes on 13th with 16 south at Flamborough the same day. The last at Spurn was on 18th September and at Flamborough 1 on 16th October with 4 on 17th and 18th.

**Little Tern *Sterna albifrons***

1 pair nested at Easington, the outcome of which is not known. The first of the year at Spurn on 18th April; 1 there on 19th then 4 on 21st with 4 at Easington on 24th. Almost daily at Spurn during May with usually between 1-7 birds but 16 on 12th. 14 there on 3rd August with 20 on 4th then 1-2 on many days to end of month with the last on 3rd September. Easington recorded 7 on 30th May with 10 on 28th July. 13 on 29th. 2 north at Hornsea on 7th June; 2 on 18th July; 3 on 26th and 1 on 5th; 6th and 22nd August. Flamborough reported 3 on 10th May; 3 on 2nd August and 1 on 3rd whilst Filey had 1 on 6th June and 20th August but 3 on 6th. 1 west at Broomfleet Ponds on 22nd August with 1 west at Sunk Island on 4th.

13 south at Staithes on 31st was unusual (MJH). The only other record from V.C. 62 being 1 at Castle Howard on 16th May. In V.C. 63; 2 at Pugney's on 28th May with 1 at Wath Ings and Angler's on the same day. 1 west at Redmires Res. on 4th June; 2 at Blacktoft on 2nd July and 1 at Southfield Res. on 22nd June. 1 at Fairburn Ings on 9th May the only record from V.C. 64.

**Black Tern** *Chlidonias niger*

A quiet spring along the coast; 4 at Hornsea on 12th May otherwise 1 bird occasionally at Hornsea; Spurn; Flamborough and Filey. Inland 1 at Tophill Low Res. on 23rd May. Wheldrake Ings reported 8 on 28th April with 6 on 11th May and 11 on 12th. 4 at Wintersett Res. on 24th April; 8 on 28th; 4 at Blacktoft on 24th; 1-3 during the spring at Thrybergh Res.; Rother Valley C.P.; Potteric Carr; Redmires Res.; Pugney's and Bretton Park. 6 at Fairburn Ings on 19th with 4 on 26th; 5 on 28th; 8 at Knotford Nook on 28th. 5 at Gouthwaite Res. on 25th May with 5 at Fairburn on 9th; 4 at Hay-a-Park on 8th.

Slightly more widespread with higher counts during the autumn. 11 at Spurn on 3rd September with 24 on 4th; 5 on 5th. 5 at Flamborough on 12th September with 6 on 13th whilst Filey reported birds roosting at the brigg with 8 on 11th September; 17 on 12th thence 10 on 15th and 6 on 16th. 6 south at Staithes on 3rd August with 4 north at Scarborough. Inland in V.C. 62, 3 at Castle Howard on 6th September whilst inland in V.C. 63, 1-2 in August at Wintersett Res.; Wath Ings; Pugney's and Redmires Res. but 3 at Blacktoft on 26th. In September, 11 at Wath Ings on 19th; 4 at Worsborough on 17th and 1 at Blacktoft; Wintersett Res. and Harthill Res. on 1 or more days. Poor autumn in V.C. 64 with only Fairburn Ings reporting more than 1 bird; 4 there on 18th September with 9 on 19th; 2 on 1st October with the last on 9th. 6 at Nosterfield, in V.C. 65, on 19th September.

The last of the year being at Spurn on 18th October.

**Gullemot** *Uria aalge*

A count of the cliffs at Bempton by the RSPB revealed an estimated 29300 individuals against 25000 in 1986. No counts from the cliffs to the north. 1 on the River Trent at Blacktoft on 8th November with 2 there on 25th.

Birds passing along the coast generally reported as 'auk sp'. Counts at Flamborough being 2550 on 3rd January; 10290 on 10th; 39800 on 12th February; 11210 on 29th March; 25100 on 4th June; 22600 on 18th; 10295 on 7th July; 16950 on 8th; 16560 on 11th. 9810 on 24th November and 14380 on 5th December. 1079 at Hornsea on 22nd May with 1238 on 23rd. 4000 at Filey on 5th March with 4800 per hour passing there on 21st.

**Razorbill** *Alca torda*

7350 counted on the cliffs at Bempton by the RSPB against 6000 last year. Birds definitely identified as this species were 15330 off Flamborough on 27th September with 4077 there on 28th and 820 on 29th. 2475 on 22nd November.

**Black Guillemot** *Cephus grylle*

A most unusual occurrence of 1 at Glasshouse Dam on 29th November (PJC) being only the second inland record of this species in Yorkshire. (the other being near Todmorden on 2nd February 1948).

1 at Filey on 16th January (PMS); 7th and 23rd February at Flamborough (PAL); 1 on 10th November with 2 on 25th (AMA). 1 at Hornsea on 14th November and 5th December (GRB).

**Little Auk** *Alle alle*

Unseasonal birds reported from Spurn on 22nd May with 5 north there on 23rd and 3 on 24th.

Small numbers during the early months with 5 at Flamborough on 7th January; 5 on 22nd February otherwise 1-2 birds infrequently at Hornsea; Spurn; Bridlington; Barmston; Scarborough; Filey; Long Nab and Staithes.

1 at Flamborough on 27th September with the next on 16th October then regularly until the end of the year. 136 on 3rd November; 87 on 11th; 61 on 20th; 220 on 21st; 507 on 22nd; 49 on 23rd and 657 on 24th; 659 on 25th; 333 on 26th; 88 on 5th December and 18 on 6th. Hornsea reported 54 on 3rd November; 55 on 21st; 160 on 22nd; 147

on 23rd; 219 on 24th; 134 on 25th and 28 on 26th. 42 at Spurn on 10th November with 53 on 26th whilst Filey reported 132 on 22nd; 107 on 23rd and 127 on 5th December. Smaller numbers during this period at Barmston; Bridlington; Scarborough and Grimsby.

Along the Humber; 3 west at Sunk Island on 21st November; 1 east there on 5th December. Inland; 1 at Bubwith on 2nd November; 1 at Hubby on 3rd; 1 at York on 3rd; 2 at Haxby on 4th; 1 at Clifton Airfield on 5th. 1 at Horsforth on 23rd October; Selby on 24th November; Buckden on 27th November and Gouthwaite on 30th. Many of these were either dead or died soon after finding.

#### **Puffin** *Fratercula arctica*

A census of the cliffs at Bempton by the RSPB in late July revealed 6050 individuals against 5000 in 1986. 545 at Flamborough on 4th May with 1400 on 23rd. In June 5680 on 4th; 3000 on 18th; 7180 on 9th July; 6480 on 10th; 5890 on 11th with 32560 on 12th (the highest count ever for this location); 7290 on 21st; 7180 on 23rd; 14230 on 25th; 7425 on 26th and 8840 on 30th. In August; 5430 on 2nd; 10690 on 5th; 6670 on 6th thence decreasing with 3640 on 8th; 1500 on 11th and 650 on 15th after which no more than 100 in a day. Hourly rates off Filey being 680 on 24th June; 220 on 19th July; 99 north at Hornsea on 22nd May.

1 west at Sunk Island on 11th October returning east later that day. 1 flew west from the River Trent at Blacktoft on 20th September.

#### **Rock Dove** *Columba livia*

Most records came from the coast north of Bridlington. Few counts made of the resident population at Flamborough though 350 on 31st January and 300 on 10th and 17th June. A census of the area carried out on 1st November revealed a total of c1500 (DIMW). Up to 150 on the cliffs north of Filey; at Bempton, large numbers with many pairs breeding; flocks of more than 100 being frequently reported. 60 at Tophill Low Res. on 30th November with 20–40 usually present.

#### **Stock Dove** *Columba oenas*

Largest counts came from Wath Ings with 100 on 7th February; 200 on 9th October and 350 on 29th December. Elsewhere in V.C. 63; 60 at Edderthorpe on 9th and 24th April; 43 at Catcliffe on 21st October. 40 at Eccup Res. on 20th March the highest count in V.C. 64 where considered as greatly under reported. No counts from V.C. 62 or V.C. 65. Numbers low in V.C. 61 with a poor year at Tophill Low Res.; 46 at Cherry Cobb on 20th December the highest number reported.

#### **Wood Pigeon** *Columba palumbus*

Widespread with many flocks of over 1000 during the winter months 3500 at Tophill Low Res. on 18th January with 2100 on 11th and 1800 on 8th February. 2000 at Hornsea Mere in January/February and November; 1000 in December. 1500 at Long Riston on 31st January; 2500 near Staxton Wold on 5th March. 1600 flew southwest over Sunk Island on 14th November whilst 1250 west at Blacktoft on 13th January. 1000 at Wentworth on 3rd March. 1000 at Scalby Mills on 8th January. 1500 at Melbourne on 2nd January; 2900 at Cliffe Bend on 16th; 1500 at Wheldrake on 21st and 2000 at North Duffield on 10th March. 2000 at High Batts N.R. on 9th January. Passage noted over Redmires Res. with 3424 southwest on 22nd October and 2088 on 18th November.

#### **Collared Dove** *Streptopelia decaocto*

No apparent change in status in V.C. 64 otherwise no comments received. 210 at Aughton on 17th November with 120 at Selby on 17th; 93 at Newton-on-Derwent on 1st October. 312 at Wentworth on 1st October; 105 at Worsborough on 13th; 164 at Ardsley on 30th with 135 near Rotherham on 8th November.

**Turtle Dove** *Streptopelia turtur*

First at Southfield Res. on 17th April; Filey on 18th thence on 19th at Spurn; Cowden and Blacktoft. Quite widespread by early May; on 10th, 11 at Flamborough with 24 at Cherry Cobb. Peak passage at end of month with 82 at Flamborough on 30th; 76 south at Spurn, 14 at Flamborough on 31st with 11 there on 7th June when 64 flew south at Spurn.

Considered to have been a poor year in the Sheffield area; continuing decrease reported in the Barnsley area. No change of status in V.C. 64.

Light autumn passage noted with last birds being at Sherburn-in-Elmet on 25th October and Spurn on 3rd November.

**Cuckoo** *Cuculus canorus*

First at Southfield Res. and West Hardwick on 14th April. Well distributed by 24th with 5 at both Cowden and Cherry Cobb that day. 7 at Hornsea Mere on 16th May; 8 at Blacktoft on 21st; up to 8 at Marsden Clough on 27th whilst 21 counted on Cowden Range on 9th. Stated to be more numerous at Spurn than in recent years. Reported in September from Barlow Grange and Fernside (Huddersfield) on 2nd; Spurn on 8th and 13th; Tophill Low Res. on 23rd and Staveley on 24th.

**Barn Owl** *Tyto alba*

In V.C. 61 bred at 10 locations in the east of the V.C. and 5 in the York area; reported during the year from 43 other locations; considered to be slowly decreasing. Bred at 2 locations in V.C. 62; 6 in V.C. 63 though thought to have bred at several others. No proven breeding in V.C. 64 but possible at 3 sites near Harrogate. Only reported from 2 locations in V.C. 65 and here appears to be decreasing.

**Little Owl** *Athene noctua*

Bred at 13 locations in the York area with birds present during the breeding season at a further 9. 14 pairs in V.C. 63 with a further 10 other locations holding birds during the breeding season. Considered to be flourishing in the moorland approaches to the eastern slopes of the Pennines. In V.C. 64, status shows no obvious change, remaining widespread. Reported from 30 locations in V.C. 65, throughout the lowland areas and also from Leighton Res. and Clapgate Gill on the higher ground.

**Tawny Owl** *Strix aluco*

Considered to be widespread and common everywhere in suitable habitat. Birds of the uncommon grey morph were reported from Tophill Low Res. and near Pickering.

**Long-eared Owl** *Asio otus*

1 pair bred at Everingham, in V.C. 61, (DW); 3 pairs breeding in V.C. 63 though no information forthcoming from 2 other well known sites. Probably bred near Stearsby. Roosts reported from Flamborough with up to 6 during January; 5 in February and March, 1-3 through the latter months of the year. Up to 6 at Broomfleet Ponds from 19th February to 6th April; 3 at Saltend on 18th February and 21st March. Up to 8 at a site near Sheffield during the early months of the year with up to 5 during December. The old established roost at Haw Park contained only 1 bird at both ends of the year. 6 at Potteric Carr on 20th January and 1st February; 8 at Thorpe Marsh on 29th January with 5 at Denaby Ings on 13th December.

Reported from V.C. 64 as 'a disastrous year' with only four records, all of single birds.

A bird ringed at Spurn Point last year during the large influx was reported freshly dead in Lithuania, 1515 km to the east, on 3rd July 1987.

### **Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus***

Well distributed along the coast of V.C. 61 though numbers lower than in previous years with only Sunk Island reporting more than 2 birds during the early months and Sunk Island; Cherry Cobb and Figham (near Beverley) likewise during the latter months. Clifton Airfield, in V.C. 62, held 4 on 28th November; 7 on 5th December; 4 on 13th; 6 on 20th and 5 on 28th (SR). 6 at Knostrop S.F. on 27th and 28th December; 6 at Staveley on 10th December. 5 at Durkar Flatts on 1st February with 5 at Blacktoft during the early months and 6 on 15th March.

Breeding reported as poor in all areas with many pairs failing.

### **Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus***

5 pairs probably bred at Skipwith Common; 1-2 pairs reported from Dalby and Cropton Forests. 37 churring males reported on Thorne Moors 'in contrast to 31 in 1986' (The YNU were given a figure of 41 for 1986 as published in that year's report). No breeding at Allerthorpe Common and apparently has not done so there since 1983. 3 males on Hatfield Moor on 4th August with 2 at Lindholme Airfield the same day. Present at 2 locations in the Sheffield and Barnsley areas on various dates between 26th May and 24th August.

### **Swift *Apus Apus***

1 at Bempton on 10th April, seen by many observers (MSK) constitutes the earliest date for this species this century (the previous earliest date being 14th April, 1985, at Wheldrake). The next reported were on 18th from Spurn and Flamborough with 1 at Fairburn on 19th and Kilnsea on 20th. Quite well distributed by the end of the month. 6000 at Fairburn on 9th May with 5000 at Hornsea Mere on 11th. 3000 at Fairburn on 10th June with 1000-2000 there throughout the remainder of that month; Hornsea Mere reporting 5200 on 14th with 2300 on 18th; 3600 on 5th July; 2100 on 13th and 17th. Southerly passage reported along the coast with 2800 at Spurn on 28th June; 2600 on 29th and 8000 on 30th. 5000 on 1st July; 2000 on 4th and 1000 on both 11th and 16th. Flamborough having 1100 on 5th with 2850 on 11th; 939 at Filey on 18th with c1000 west at Sunk Island and 1420 south at Blacktoft on this date. Chelker Res. and Tophill Low Res. both reported more than 1000 on at least 1 day of the year. Small numbers only during September with 300 at Flamborough on 12th. Late birds in October from Lodge Moor, Sheffield on 15th; Filey on 22nd; Dunnington Common on 24th; Tophill Low Res. on 25th; Spurn on 28th and 29th with the last of the year at Dunsville on 5th November (PS).

### **Alpine Swift *Apus melba***

Single birds at Spurn Point on 30th April (BRS) and 9th May (RGi) constitute the 7th and 8th records for the Observatory.

1 at Flamborough on 24th May (JMP: DAR) is still under consideration by the *British Birds Rarities Committee*.

### **Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis***

No positive breeding records from V.C. 61 though reported during the summer months from along the River Hull/Driffield Canal; near Hessle; Holderness Drain (in Hull) and the Derwent River/Pocklington Canal. 2 pairs bred between Naburn/Fulford on the River Ouse.

Reported as possibly increasing in V.C. 63 with pairs present at 14 locations in the Huddersfield area; confirmed breeding at 2 near Halifax; 7 in the Doncaster area; at least 6 near Bradford and 'reasonably common' along the River Don in the Sheffield area. Continued increase in V.C. 64 being common along the Wharfe between Ilkley and Collingham. 6 pairs in one 10 Km square encompassing the Tees, in V.C. 65, with many pairs reported along the rivers Swale and Ure.

**Bee-eater** *Merops apiaster*

1 at Flamborough on 30th May (AMA: ASB: RCH: DGH: VAL). 4 adults reported on the outskirts of Pickering between 27th and 29th August being seen by many observers (Mr. and Mrs. A. Brewer).

**Hoopoe** *Upupa epops*

1 at Spurn Point on 25th April being first seen near the lighthouse (BRS) thence moving north along the peninsula to be finally seen on 26th near Kilnsea (BR *et al.*). 1 at Cattal (V.C. 64) on 27th April (SS). 1 at Ugglebarnby (V.C. 62) on 3rd May (JB) with 1 at Nunwick (V.C. 64) on 5th. 1 at Hornsea on 18th and 19th (GRB).

During the latter months single birds were reported from near Foxholes (V.C. 61) on 8th September (RNH) and in Hull on 7th October (KR).

**Wryneck** *Jynx torquilla*

Inland, in spring, single birds at Scammonden Dam on 22nd and 23rd April (KP: JP *et al.*); Fairburn village on 7th May and Tophill Low Res. on 26th (RL: ASP *et al.*). Along the coast; 4 at Spurn on 23rd April with 1 on 26th remaining until 27th. 1 there on the unusual date of 26th June. 1 at Flamborough on 23rd May (ASB: VAL) and 25th (PAL) and Grimston on 25th May (SGW).

In autumn, at Spurn 1 on 24th August and then daily from 26th to 4th September with between 5 and 10 to the 31st then 1-3 until 4th. 1 on 15th September and 2nd and 4th October. 4 at Flamborough on 25th August; 9 on 26th; 8 on 27th; 2 on 28th; 6 on 29th with 1 on 30th and 31st; 1 on 1st September (PAL *et al.*). Filey had 1 on 24th (TDC) with up to 3 daily from 27th to 30th August. 1 remaining until 1st September. 1 at Bempton on 28th August.

**Green Woodpecker** *Picus viridis*

No definite breeding reported from V.C. 61 though reported from several suitable locations during the summer months. Along the coast, single birds at Hornsea Mere during the last two months of the year; Flamborough on 27th August; Filey on 7th November and Kilnsea on 19th August. Bred at 2 locations in the York area and present in most of the dales along the edge of the North York Moors. Flourishing in V.C. 63 with breeding in the Halifax; Bradford; Sheffield; Huddersfield; Barnsley and Doncaster areas (at least 22 pairs) with many more suspected. A definite increase in reports from V.C. 64 with proven breeding at at least 5 locations. Not reported as breeding in V.C. 65 though recorded at Leighton Res.; Bedale; Preston-under-Scar; along the north side of the Swale Valley to the west of Richmond; Marske Beck and Shaw Beck near Washfold.

**Great Spotted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos major*

All areas reported that if there is a change in status it is upwards. 'Common' and 'abundant' being used for some locations.

**Lesser Spotted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos minor*

Considered to be a slight decrease in number in the Doncaster area though other areas reported no change in status. Bred at 7 locations in V.C. 63 with possible breeding at a further 8; at 2 in V.C. 64 though present at many others during the summer months; at 1 location near York (several pairs) and again present at others. Uncommon in the east of the county with single birds near Hornsea occasionally in February; November and December and Brandesburton in November. Near Whitby on 20th August. Also uncommon in V.C. 65 where single birds were reported from Spennithorne on 7th February; Bolton-on-Swale on 9th April and Roundhill Res. on 4th December.

**Short-toed Lark** *Calandrella brachydactyla*

1 near Aldbrough from 10th to 21st December (AFJ: GRB: BR *et al*).

1 at Flamborough on 25th June is still under consideration by the *British Birds Rarities Committee* (PAL).

**Woodlark** *Lullula arborea*

1 at Carr Naze, Filey, on 5th April (DB) was the first record for this location. 1 at Spurn on 8th May and another there on 4th October whilst 1 singing at Flamborough on 9th July (APL).

**Skylark** *Alauda arvensis*

Breeding status appears to be unchanged. The only movement during the cold weather of January reported from inland with 156 at Blacktoft on 10th; 80 west at Catcliffe on 11th; 230 south at Fairburn Ings on 11th and 280 south there on 17th. Large flocks reported during this period being 90 at Filey on 11th increasing to 350 by 17th after which numbers decreased rapidly. 120 at Hutton Conyers on 14th; 100 at Wormald Green on 18th; 150 at Burniston on 18th; 170 at Wath Ings on 11th; 120 at Carlton Marsh on 12th; c130 at Spurn from 13th to 15th and 120 at Hornsea Mere.

Light passage during autumn only with 308 at Spurn on 11th and 360 on 17th October; 400 at Flamborough on 11th; 160 on 17th; 165 on 24th and 450 on 1st November. 166 east and 87 west at Sunk Island on 11th October with 135 west there on 24th. 185 south at Blacktoft on 8th October; 126 south on 28th.

**Shore Lark** *Eremophila alpestris*

5 at Barmston on 8th January (BS and SP); 4 on 24th January (SML); 4 again on 7th March (KR). 1 north at Spurn on 16th May; 2 south there on 25th October. 1-2 regularly at Filey from 24th October to the end of the year. 1 at Flamborough on 28th December and 1 flying east at Stone Creek on 6th December (JW).

**Sand Martin** *Riparia riparia*

1 at More Hall Res. on 17th March was well in advance of the next at Blacktoft and Castle Howard on 26th thence on 27th at Filey; Bempton and Farnham with records from Hornsea Mere; Wintersett Res. and Fairburn Ings on 28th; Maximum spring counts at favoured locations being 760 at Hornsea Mere on 11th May with 720 on 17th; 960 at Tophill Low Res. on 12th; c700 at Bolton-on-Swale on 14th and 250 at Nosterfield on 1st.

Comments concerning breeding were 'encouraging' (York); 'successful breeding season'. 'indications that the species is returning to pre 1983/4 levels' (V.C. 64). c383 occupied holes at Masham G.P.; at least 300 pairs between Denton and Arthington on the River Wharfe; 200 along the Ure between Wensley and Masham; 237 at Pallett Hill and 155 at Scorton Quarry.

Light coastal passage with 350 at Spurn on 28th August; 120 on 13th and 190 on 14th September, smaller numbers from other coastal locations. Gatherings inland included 500 at Tophill Low Res. on 23rd August; 1600 at Bolton-on-Swale on 17th July; 400 at Mickletown Ings on 31st July; 600 at Blacktoft on 27th July and 1000 at Esholt S.W. on 6th September. Late birds at Blacktoft with 8 on 13th October and 1 at Broomhill Flash on 21st.

**Swallow** *Hirundo rustica*

First of the year on 4th April at Fairburn Ings and Knotford Nook with birds at Blacktoft; Broomhill Flash; Thrybergh Res. Worsborough Res. the following day. 1200 flew south at Spurn on 25th and 30th May whilst Flamborough recorded 1000 on 24th and 3000 on 25th. Peak counts at Hornsea Mere in spring being 1260 on 11th May with 1600 on 16th; 1860 on 17th and 2200 on 23rd. During autumn 1800 there on 18th July with 1600 on 12th August. 2000 daily at Wintersett Res. from mid August to early September; 3000 at Wath Ings on 30th August with 1000 there on 1st October; 5300 on

the Lower Derwent on 17th September; 1500 at Leventhorpe (Leeds) on 24th. 4500 south at Spurn on 30th August with 3500 on 4th September. Sunk Island recorded 474 east and 736 west on 29th August; 276 east and 960 west on 30th with 420 west on 13th September and 351 west on 20th.

Late birds reported from Ainderby Steeple on 14th November with 1 at Wath Ings on the same date; 1 at Burstwick G.P. on 22nd November and the last at Escrick on 8th December (there have been only 2 later records in Yorkshire) (TED).

#### **Red-rumped Swallow *Hirundo daurica***

An excellent year at Flamborough with 3 on 22nd October (AMA: RCH: JM: PAL: VAL *et al*). 1 on 26th and 27th October (BS and JMB). 1 on 31st October (AMA: JCL: PAL: JMP: IS). 1 from 5th to 8th November (BR: AMA: DGH: JCL: PAL: ASB: PGW: VAL).

#### **House Martin *Delichon urbica***

1 at Ripon on 4th April with 5 there on 5th when 4 were at Pugney's; 1 at Fairburn Ings on 6th. Counts during May of 600 at Flamborough on 24th with 750 on 25th and 450 on 26th; 600 at Spurn on 28th and 800 on 30th; 500+ at Wheldrake Ings on 9th and 400 at Fairburn Ings on 28th. 1100 at Flamborough on 5th June; 480 at Hornsea Mere on 6th; 570 at Tophill Low Res. on 8th; smaller counts elsewhere. Up to 600 at Brandsby during August with 900 at Flamborough on 11th and 500 there on 28th. September saw 1050 at Spurn on 14th; 2600 on 16th; 1000+ at Esholt S.W. on 6th; 1500–2000 northwest over Hawksworth Moor on 11th; 2500 south over High Batts N.R. on 13th; 2000 along the Lower Derwent on 17th.

Late birds reported from Spurn on 2nd November; Hunmanby on 3rd; Thrybergh on 7th and at Filey on 19th.

Albinos at Filey on 12th September; Esholt S.W. on 17th August; Hornsea on 15th October whilst a bird considered to be a House Martin x Sand Martin hybrid was reported from Aughton Ings on 5th September (RS).

#### **Richard's Pipit *Anthus novaeseelandiae***

Reported from Spurn Point with 1 on 29th September; 1 on 30th; 1 or 2 on 1st October; 1 on 2nd; 1 or 2 on 3rd; 2 on 4th. It is considered that only 2 birds were concerned during this period. Another on 29th October.

1 at Flamborough from 30th April to 5th May constituted the first spring record there (AMA: JCL: PAL: JMP: AS). 2 on 29th September (PAL); 2 on 2nd October (AMA) with 1 the following day (PAL: JMP: ASB: RCH: SPS: VAL: JM). 2 at Kilnsea on 4th October with 1 on 5th and 6th (GJS *et al*) (could involve the Spurn bird(s)). 1 east at Sunk Island on 25th October (JW).

1 at Scarborough on 28th October (JW). Inland, 1 at Wombwell Ings on 4th October flew towards Broomhill Flash though could not be relocated. (JMT: DMW) but on 11th 1 at Wombwell again and thought to be the same bird (JH: JHG).

#### **Tawny Pipit *Anthus campestris***

1 at Tophill Low Res. on 19th April, the first record for that location (JB: AL: TR)

#### **Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni***

1 at Spurn on 5th October (GJS *et al*), the second record for the Observatory. 1 at Filey on 22nd October (DJS: HJW *et al*), the first for this location.

#### **Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis***

1 on 12th April at Deffer Wood with records the following day from Bretton Park and Newhouses; on 14th from Spurn and Wintersett Res. Light spring passage though 12 at Fairburn Ings on 19th and 20th April with Flamborough reporting 11 on 9th May and 20 on 25th. No apparent change in breeding status though possibly bred at Spurn Point.

Autumn passage light along the coast with 15 at Flamborough on 25th August; 22 on 26th; 18 on 27th and 8 on 28th. At Spurn, 17 south on 17th with 10 there on 1st September. Inland, 12 over High Batts N.R. on 13th September. Last reported were singles at Spurn Point on 22nd and 29th October.

#### **Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis***

Scarce during January and February; not until spring passage were any numbers reported. 431 north at Spurn on 25th March with 100 on 5th April and 145 on 16th. 100 off the sea at Bempton on 5th April; 92 at Filey on 26th March. 140 at Wath Ings on 28th March with 260 there on 8th April; 91 in the Rother Valley C.P. on 29th March; 79 west at Worsborough on 8th April; 116 at Knotford Nook on 4th April and 128 at Gouthwaite on 28th March. 150 at North Duffield on 12th April.

Breeding assumed to have been normal, no comments being received.

Autumn passage noted at Spurn with 1700 south on 13th September; 2278 on 14th; 2000 on 15th and 8000 on 16th. In October, 1306 on 9th and 675 on 13th. Along the Humber, at Sunk Island, 154 east on 3rd October; 400 west on 10th; 55 east and 216 west on 11th with 67 west on 1st November. Inland, 3037 counted flying west along the Colne Valley between 2nd September and 10th October with 623 on 25th September as highest count. 220 south at Shipley on 16th September; 363 at Wath Ings on 13th September of which 226 flew south. c12000 mainly south over Redmires Res. between 9th September and end of month with peak counts of 2440 on 18th and 2700 on 25th. 1213 recorded passing over Thrybergh during September.

#### **Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus***

1 at Beacon Lane Ponds, Kilnsea on 10th May (NAB *et al*). 1 at Spurn on 4th October (BF: K and MKR: AW). 1 at Flamborough on 4th October (PAL).

#### **Rock Pipit *Anthus petrosus***

Bred successfully at Hornsea being unusual south of the Flamborough cliffs; normal breeding reported from there northwards.

1–5 at Spurn during the early months with 10 on 30th March whilst 1–7 there during the latter months though southerly passage in autumn with 14 on 11th October and 19 on 25th. 25 at Flamborough on 30th October, maximum there. At Stone Creek/Paull, 2–6 to mid February with similar counts during September–December with 8 on 4th October; 9 on 1st November and 10 on 22nd. 8 west at Sunk Island on 24th October. Up to 3 at Blacktoft in January/February with a similar number during the last two months though 4 on 8th November. 3 at Angler's on 2nd October with 2 there on 25th. Single birds occasionally at Wintersett Res.; Rother Valley C.P.; Broomhill Flash; Wath Ings; Digley Res. and Ingbirchworth Res. 1 at Fairburn Ings on 7th October being the only record received from that V.C.

Birds showing the characteristics of the Scandinavian race *A.p.littoralis* were reported from Spurn with 3 on 30th March; Kilnsea on 21st March; Hornsea with 2 on 10th April and 1 on 16th; Hornsea Mere, 1 on 23rd; 28th March; 1st; 5th; 11th and 15th April with 2 on 4th and 12th April. Atwick with 2 on 4th April; Cherry Cobb on 22nd February and Paull on 15th and 29th March.

#### **Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta***

3 at Blacktoft Sands on 2nd April (AG *et al*) with 2 there on 31st March and 1st April and again from 3rd April to 12th. 1 throughout January–March with 1 on 13th April. At the end of the year 1 regularly from 24th October with a second bird on 25th (AG *et al*). Elsewhere single birds were reported from Aldwarke S.F. on 31st January (PL); Flamborough on 1st October (PAL); Filey on 20th April (HJW); Broomfleet Ponds on 8th April (TAE); the Ribble valley on 20th March; 28th November and 13th December (BS) and the Lower Derwent at North Duffield on 8th April and Aughton on 17th (TED).

### **Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava***

First arrivals were noted on 8th April from Bolton-on-Swale; Hornsea Mere; Pugney's; Thrybergh and Edderthorpe with birds widespread by 12th. 62 at Bolton-on-Swale on 20th; 30 at Wintersett Res. on 22nd; 35 at Sherburn-in-Elmet on 24th with 40 on 25th when 35 were reported at Flamborough with 32 on 27th; 52 on 28th; 42 on 29th and 40 on 30th there. 61 flew south at Spurn on 20th April with 235 on 1st May. 36 at Tophill Low Res. on 6th May whilst 40 were in Scarborough on 24th April.

Breeding apparently normal though no specific comments received.

Autumn flocks of 42 at Spurn on 29th August; 36 at Cherry Cobb on 16th; 43 at Tophill Low Res. on 17th; 44 at Otley on 22nd; 35 at Blacktoft on 12th September with a roost of 210 at Wath Ings on 21st August. 42 south at Spurn on 24th August with 16 west and 96 east at Sunk Island on 29th; 27 east there on 12th September and 52 east on 13th. Late birds at Thrybergh on 25th October and at Wombwell from 6th to 12th November.

Birds of the nominate race *M.f.flava* (Blue-headed Wagtail) were reported breeding near Tophill Low Res. and possibly so at Naburn. Passage birds reported from many locations, mainly in spring with 4 at Flamborough on 29th April; 5 on 30th and 5 again on 6th May. Individuals showing characteristics of other races reported as follows:- *M.f.thunbergi* (Grey-headed) at Flamborough on 15th; 19th; 24th and 28th May (PAL *et al*), Filey on 23rd May (JH *et al*), Fairburn Ings on 25th and Blacktoft Sands on 26th (AG); *M.f.cinereocapilla* (Ashy-headed) at Flamborough on 16th May (AMA: JCL) and 30th May (AMA: DGH) and *M.f.iberiae* (Spanish) at Flamborough on 6th May (PAL) and 4th June (AMA).

### **Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea***

Reported to have bred in V.C. 61 at Driffield (TM); near Pocklington; at Bielby (PD) and the old established site at Settrington. Good breeding numbers in the upland areas of V.C. 63 and bred at Wintersett for the first time. No comments received from V.C.s 62; 64 or 65. 1-3 during the winter months in V.C. 61 with 4 at Flamborough on 28th October and 5 on 8th November. No significant records from other areas.

### **Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba***

Up to 200 roosted at the British Gas plant at Atwick during both winters (JESW) with 150 at St. George's Church, Doncaster from October to the end of the year, 100 at Huddersfield Civic Centre on 30th December. 100 at Esholt S.W. on 29th January with 80 at Wombwell Ings on 10th; no other counts of more than 50 during the early months.

Autumn flocks reported Wath Ings with 150 on 11th October; 150 at Gouthwaite on 15th August; 100 at Harrogate S.F. on 28th; 100+ at Chelker Res. on 3rd October; 80 at Skipton S.W. on 5th September. 150+ at Esholt S.W. on 1st December with a similar count in Leeds City Centre on 17th.

Birds of the nominate race *M.a.alba* (White Wagtail) were reported from many locations with 12 at Wintersett Res. on 21st April and 9 at Spurn on 27th April as the highest counts.

No comments received on breeding status and is thus assumed to be unchanged.

### **Waxwing *Bombycilla garrulus***

1-3 occasionally at Flamborough; Hornsea; Spurn; Stone Creek; Bilton and Hull on at least 1 day during the early months. 1 at Flamborough on 9th November. 4 at Bishopthorpe on 14th January. In V.C. 62 up to 12 in Scarborough during January with 13 at Whitby on 25th and c35 near Whitby on 2nd April. 8 at Sawdon on 26th January.

In V.C. 63; 1-3 during January at Dalton; Huddersfield Town Centre; Stocks Moor and 4 locations in the Sheffield area. In February from a further 4 locations around Sheffield and 1 in Bradford (all single birds). 4 in the Shipley/Saltaire area from 11th March to 4th April with 1 on 11th. 1 at Skyhouse on 1st November. In V.C. 64; 16 at

Timble Ings on 22nd February otherwise 1–5 birds at 14 locations between 9th January and 11th April. 1 at Harmby on 29th January being the only record from V.C. 65.

Addition to the 1986 Report: 2 at Stanley Marsh, near Wakefield on 26th December.

#### **Dipper *Cinclus cinclus***

Present during the breeding season near Settrington V.C. 61 and assumed to have bred there; pair feeding young at Crambeck, on the Derwent, the only record from the York area.

Widespread and common along the streams of the higher ground with no reported change in status.

#### **Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes***

Status unchanged in all areas with little evidence of passage along the coast though 30 at Spurn on 23rd October and, along the Humber at Sunk Island/Stone Creek, 17 on 4th and 11th October with 18 on 31st.

#### **Dunnock *Prunella modularis***

Considered to have had a good year in V.C. 63 though at Fairburn Ings, in V.C. 64, breeding numbers were down. Numbers at Spurn reported as well down on previous years; 40 at Flamborough on 31st October, the only count of note there.

#### **Robin *Erithacus rubecula***

As a breeding bird little change in status reported. Coastal passage noted during early April with 15–32 at Spurn between 3rd and 6th; 21 at Bempton on 2nd; 14 at both Filey and Flamborough on 4th increasing to 20 at Filey on 5th and 45 at Flamborough on same day. Small influx during mid October with 50 at Spurn on 15th increasing to 200 on 19th; 150 on 20th; 110 on 21st and down to 60 on 23rd. Flamborough also noted this influx with 80 on 20th; 110 on 21st and 60 on 22nd. 32 at Paull/Stone Creek on 31st and 90–95 at Port Mulgrave on 30th. 1 ringed at Catterick on 19th August was re-trapped at Slapton, Devon on 20th September (472 Km southwest).

#### **Thrush Nightingale *Luscinia luscinia***

A single bird trapped at Spurn Point on 23rd May was present until 25th. The 5th record for the Observatory.

#### **Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos***

No comments received from Thorne Moors but 3 trapped at Finningley Park during May with a singing male there until mid June; singing male at Thorpe Marsh on 25th May and 1 seen briefly there on 25th June. 2 pairs present on Hatfield Moors during May/June. 1 singing at Mount School, York on 7th May. 1 at Flamborough on 14th May with 1 there also on 27th August. 1 at Bempton on 28th. Two pairs at a site near Selby during May/June.

#### **Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica***

Influx along the coast during the third week of May with 1 at Spurn on 22nd; 2 on 23rd; 3 on 24th; 2 on 25th and 26th. At Kilnsea a male and 3 females on 23rd, NAB); Grimston, 1 on 24th (SGW); Flamborough, female on 4th April (PAL); 2 males on 19th May (JCL: PAL: JMP); male on 20th; 3; male, female and imm. male on 22nd May (AMA: JCL: PAL: JMP); 2 on 23rd; 9 on 24th; 10 on 25th (PAL: JCL: JMP: AMA: DGH: AS et al). At Bempton, a male on 24th remaining to 25th (PPh et al), Filey; 3 on 23rd (DJS: PMS: DJW: HJW et al).

In autumn; 1 at Spurn on 23rd October; 1 at Flamborough on 25th August and 1 inland at Yeddingham (V.C. 62) on 31st October (RHA).

On 4th April, a male considered to belong to one of the eastern races *L.s.magna* was present at Flamborough (PAL: DGH: JCL: MN: PGW et al). Under consideration by the British Birds Rarities Committee.

### **Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros***

Bred successfully at 3 sites in Sheffield with males present at a further 2. Male present at last year's site in Bradford for at least 3 months but no female seen. Male singing in Hull City Centre on 7th May.

Good spring passage along the coast during early April with 15 at Spurn on 3rd; 22 on 4th; 27 on 5th (the highest count ever for Yorkshire) and 14 on 6th. 2 at Grimston on 6th with 4 on 8th; 7 at East Newton on 4th; 6 on 5th; 7 on 6th with 1 on 7th/8th (AFJ: GB); 2 at Barmston on 4th (SML); 2 at Filey on 3rd and 4th with 5 on 5th (HJW), 3 remaining until 8th. 4 at Castle Hill, Scarborough on 6th (MFr). During this period 1-2 reported from Hornsea; Bempton; Atwick and Holmpton along the coast, with 1 at Tophill Low Res. on 5th (IF *et al.*). 1 at Blacktoft Sands on 6th (AG).

Inland, away from the breeding areas, single birds were reported from Littlethorpe on 31st March; Settle on 2nd June; Shaw Mills (dead) on 26th August; Thorpe Marsh on 19th April; Finningley on 20th to 23rd October; Holmbridge on 18th April; Grimethorpe on 6th August; Fly Flatts on 2nd September; Ewden Farm on 24th October. 2 at a quarry near Settle on 17th October.

In October, reported from Spurn with generally 1-4 but 15 on 19th; 7 on 20th; 6 on 27th and 5 on 28th. At Flamborough, 7 on 20th and 21st with 15 on 22nd thereafter 1-3 reported. 4 at Kilnsea on 19th October.

### **Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus***

First of the year on 5th April at Bretton Park with 1 at Bempton on 10th and Filey on 13th. Many locations had reported birds by 25th. Few noted along the coast in spring with 10 at Flamborough on 27th April as the highest count.

Comments received on breeding were 'normal' in V.C. 64 with 8 singing males at Bolton Abbey on 17th May and 30 birds there on 21st June. Information from V.C. 63 sparse and considered a true reflection of a rather poor situation with this species but at least 10 pairs in the Barnsley area.

Light coastal passage during autumn with 31 at Flamborough on 2nd October and 22 on 3rd whilst at Spurn 26 on 4th. Last bird of the year at Filey on 30th and 31st October.

### **Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra***

A very early bird at Hornsea Mere on 12th April (GRB) followed by 1 at Flamborough and Thorpe Marsh on 18th thence at Spurn and near Settle (earliest ever in that area) on 19th. Widespread by 26th with 11 at Flamborough on that date; 16 there on 25th May with 24 on 1st June. 10 at Spurn on 25th May.

5 birds at Millington Pastures included 2 singling males on 2nd June with 1 male on 4th and may have bred in that area. For the first time ever breeding was not reported in the York recording area. Proven at very few locations in V.C. 64 though in V.C. 63, at least 13 pairs in the Sheffield area with 7 near Huddersfield and a few pairs in the Bradford; Barnsley and Halifax areas. 9 at Wath Ings on 18th June with a similar count on 6th July.

Autumn passage fairly light with 18 at Bempton on 26th August; 20 at Flamborough on 25th with 48 on 26th; 62 on 27th; 48 on 28th; 71 on 29th and 42 on 30th; 18 on 5th September; 41 on 6th thence 19 on 13th with 16 on 15th and 17th. Spurn reported between 13 and 22 on 28th, 29th and 30th August and in September, 24 on 15th; 22 on 16th and 15 on 17th. 30 at Long Nab on 30th August with 13 at Port Mulgrave on 3rd September. 18 at Stone Creek on 13th September. Highest inland counts being 12 at Fairburn Ings on 29th August and 14 at Wintersett on 7th September.

1 at Spurn on 4th and 5th November whilst 1 at the north end of Tophill Low Res. on 30th December is by far the latest recorded in Yorkshire (RL PSc).

### **Stonechat *Saxicola torquata***

2 at Spurn on 5th April with 1 on 3rd and another on 3rd May; more plentiful there during the latter months with up to 4 between 9th and 15th October and up to 7 from 18th to end of month thence up to 5 until 9th November. 2 at Cowden on 14th November; 2 at Filey on 12th October and 2 at Tophill Low Res. from 9th October to at least 11th. Otherwise single birds on occasions at Hornsea; Hornsea Mere; Stone Creek; Sunk Island; Thornick Bay; Buckton and Bempton. In the York area, single birds at Naburn and Clifton Airfield on 11th October and Clifton again on 24th. V.C. 63 reported birds only during the latter months with the exception of 1 near Bradford on 2nd July. 2 at Blacktoft on 19th and 20th October; 2 in the Broomhead area from 27th November until the end of the year otherwise 1 bird at Carlton Industrial Estate; Royd Edge Clough; Broomhill; Wintersett; Blacktoft and Houndkirk Moor on 1 or more days during the period October–December.

A male at Knostrop S.F. on 4th June and 3rd July though no comment on breeding received. A pair at Mickletown Ings until 3rd March with 2 at Skipton S.W. on 1st November otherwise 1 at Chelker Res. on 7th January; at Gouthwaite until 22nd March; at Knostrop S.F. on 10th November and Reva Res. on 29th December.

Birds showing the characteristics of the Continental race *S.t.rubicola* were reported at Spurn on 6th and 9th April.

Birds showing the characteristics of one of the eastern races *S.t. maura* or *S.t. stejnegeri*, known colloquially as Siberian Stonechat, were reported from Staveley from 4th to 11th October (GTF: RE: PTT *et al*) and Flamborough on 15th and 16th October (JCL: PAL: JMP: NAP: AS *et al*).

Also, under consideration by the *British Birds Rarities Committee*, a female or immature at Flamborough on 22nd and 23rd May (AMA: DGH: JCL: PAL) and an immature there from 29th September until 2nd October (AMA: JCL: PAL: AS).

### **Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe***

First reported on 22nd March from Green Withens, Halifax thence on 26th at Spurn; Pugney's; Wyke and Wath Ings; on 28th at Fairburn Ings and Filey. Coastal passage light with up to 12 at Spurn during April though 29 on 5th and 20 on 26th; at East Newton, 24 on 9th April; 16 on 10th and 27 on 12th; at Flamborough, 25 on 16th April, 33 on 18th; 58 on 23rd; 25 on 19th May and 22 on 25th. Smaller numbers reported inland.

Birds resembling the Greenland race *O.o.leucorrhoa* were occasionally recorded along the coast plus 1–2 inland at 2 locations in V.C. 63 and 3 in V.C. 64.

Breeding was considered to have been normal with no change in status noted. A 'fluffy' juvenile at Wheldrake Ings on 5th July was thought to have been reared locally.

Autumn passage along the coast again light. Flamborough having 25 on 25th August with 55 on 26th; 58 on 27th; 38 on 28th; 49 on 29th; 42 on 30th and 21 on 6th September. Bempton recorded 23 on 26th August whilst Port Mulgrave had 25+ on 3rd September.

Late birds were at Barmston on 7th November (SML); at Langsett Moor on 8th (RF) and Killinghall Moor on 13th.

### **Black-eared Wheatear *Oenanthe hispanica***

Single immature at Flamborough on 16th and 17th September (PAL). Under consideration by the *British Birds Rarities Committee*.

### **Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus***

A exceptionally early bird on Barden Moor on 27th February; next at Digley on 22nd March then Knotford Nook on 28th and 29th with 1 on the latter date at Oxenhope. By 10th April birds widespread though many late in returning to traditional moorland locations. Few along the coast in spring with 4 at Flamborough on 5th April and 5 at Ravenscar on 18th; 4 at Bempton on 25th.

Breeding status assumed to be unchanged with no specific comments received.

Slightly higher numbers during autumn with 4 at both Spurn and Flamborough on 2nd October; 14 at Flamborough on 20th with 5 on 21st. 3 at Sunk Island on 3rd October with 4 on 24th. 2 at Flamborough and 1 at Spurn on 1st November being the last reported.

#### **Blackbird** *Turdus merula*

70 at Flamborough on 18th January and 77 between Paull and Stone Creek on 7th were the highest numbers reported during the early months of the year. Slightly higher counts in spring with Spurn reporting 111 on 1st April and 155 on 6th; Flamborough having 110 on 5th whilst inland 100+ were at Rossington during March and 150 at Sprotborough Flash on 13th April.

No comments received concerning breeding status, assumed to be unchanged.

Influx noted along the coast in late October with up to 300 at Spurn; 100 at Flamborough on 20th; 200 on 22nd; 285 on 24th and 250 on 25th when c220 were at Sewerby. During this period small numbers reported along the Humber at Sunk Island. 600 at Spurn on 3rd November and 515 at Flamborough with 200 there on 4th; up to 330 at Spurn on 7th with 250 on 21st. Inland, 150 at Acaster Airfield on 5th December; 140 at Auckley on 14th December; 250 roosting at Rossington on 20th November with 150 there on 18th December, 110 in the Worsborough valley on 25th November; 200 at Wath on 4th October and 29th November; 100 at High Batts on 3rd and 13th December.

#### **Black-throated Thrush** *Turdus ruficollis*

A first winter male in the Botanical Gardens, Sheffield on 9th; 19th and 20th January (PAA: KRG: SJR *et al*). The first record for Yorkshire.

#### **Fieldfare** *Turdus pilaris*

Few large numbers reported during January/February with 450 east over Tophill Low Res. on 10th January; 200 at Haworth, 150 at Allerton and 300 on Broomhead Moor on 2nd/3rd January; 250 at Westwick on 9th. In February, 500 at Scout Dyke on 9th; 350 at Bretton Park on 22nd with up to 350 at Carthick Wood by the end of month. In March, 250 at Redmires Res. on 2nd; 500 at Addingham on 7th; 500 west over Silkstone on 26th; 800 at Newington on 29th with 1000 at Broomhead on 31st. 400 at Adel and 500 at Westwick on 13th April decreasing to 250 at Westwick on 18th; 200 at Wentworth on 7th and 200 at Ingbirchworth on 18th.

Small numbers in May with birds present at Flamborough until 31st and 1 at Filey remaining until 14th June.

First of autumn at Flamborough on 26th August with birds there and at Spurn on 1st September. The main influx into the county came on 24th/25th October with 3430 off the sea at Sewerby and 1500 grounded there on 25th (GRB); 560 at Flamborough on that date and 650 on 26th; 750 at Spurn on 29th. 1120 flew west along the Humber at Sunk Island on 24th with c600 there on 31st; On the Lower Derwent; 2000 were present on 29th October with 2650 on 30th; 3510 west in 1 hour at Wheldrake on 4th November; 5880 in a similar direction in 3 hours on 5th; 900 south and 4900 roosting there on 6th with 1200 on 7th; 2500 on 10th and 1000 on 15th. 500 southwest at Broomhead Moor with 2000 grounded in the Ewden valley on 25th; westerly passage over Redmires Res. during November with 3280 on 14th; 2173 on 16th; 2475 on 17th and 1385 on 18th; 1250 west at Blacktoft on 19th. In V.C. 64, 1000 at Gouthwaite on 24th October; 10000 in the East Keswick area on 5th November; 1000 over High Batts N.R. on 14th November and 750 at Fairburn and 700 at Knotford Nook during mid month. By the end of the year few large flocks present with 700 at Pool Meadows on 19th December being the highest.

### **Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos***

Status and distribution considered to be unchanged in all areas.

Numbers along the coast low during early months and until influx in late September with a second, slightly larger, in mid October. 450 at Flamborough on 30th September with 285 on 1st October; 600 on 2nd and 180 on 4th. During this period Spurn reported between 80 and 200 whilst at Paull/Stone Creek 110 were reported. 650 at Flamborough on 13th with 670 on 19th followed by 800 on 20th; 650 on 21st; 500 on 22nd and 380 on 25th. Spurn reported their highest ever count of 1000 on 19th with 250 on 20th; 300 on 21st; 100 on 22nd and 23rd. 200 at Filey on 19th until 21st. By the end of the month all had moved inland.

Inland, 50 at Fairburn Ings on 8th March; 30 at Lemonroyd S.F. on 4th October; 43 at Tinsley S.F. on 11th; 36 west over Redmires on 22nd with 30 at Pool Paper Mills on 24th.

### **Redwing *Turdus iliacus***

Very few flocks reported during early months with 120 at Mickletown Ings on 27th January; 100 at Whirlaw Park (Sheffield) on 14th February; 134 at Graves Park (Sheffield) on 26th. In March slightly more flocks with 100 in Roundhay Park (Leeds) on 19th; 100 at Farnham on 16th March; 100 at Paul's Park (Leeds) on 24th and 200 at Silkstone on 26th. Last birds being at Flamborough on 30th May and 1st June.

1 at Spurn on 19th and 20th August, the first of the autumn with 1 on 2nd September there thence 12 at Flamborough on 26th. Influx noted along the coast in mid/late October with Flamborough recording 5000 on 20th; 2600 on 21st; 1500 on 22nd then 650 on 24th; 740 on 25th when 2600 were reported along the coast at Sewerby coming in off the sea all day (GRB). Spurn during this period reported 450 on 20th; 800 on 21st and 400 on 25th. 630 at Filey on 13th with 300 on 19th; 500 on 20th and 200 on 21st. This influx noted along the estuary with 312 west at Sunk Island on 24th and 170 west on 25th.

Inland, 3015 flew west at Redmires on 22nd October with 1822 west there on 25th; 107 west at Blackmoorfoot on 25th. 638 flew over Timble Ings on 15th October in 2 hours though with the exception of 200 at Farnham on 11th few were reported in V.C. 64 until early November with up to 200 at several locations and 300 at Fairburn Ings on 12th remaining until 23rd; 250 at Eccup on 4th November. 4000 flew west over Sheriff Hutton on 1st November, a movement not noted anywhere else. By December only a few flocks of 100 remained in the county with up to 300 at Edderthorpe during both November and December; 150 at Firbeck on 21st December and 100 at Wath on 24th.

Male singing in Duncombe Park on 22nd and 23rd May.

### **Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus***

No comments received concerning breeding status and would thus appear to be unchanged. With the exception of 20 at Gallow Hill, Knaresborough on 20th January very few parties were reported during the early months. Post breeding flocks widespread from late July though 28 at Tophill Low Res. during this month was by far the highest count from the east of the county where this species is still thinly distributed. Inland, 50 at Carlton on 6th August; 42 at Aldwarke S.F. on 13th; 44 at Hooton Common on 25th; 80+ at Esholt S.W. on 10th September. 42 at Drop Clough, Huddersfield on 17th with 45 at Wath on 15th October.

In V.C. 64; 93 at Gouthwaite Res. on 30th August with 90 there on 6th September and 99 on 26th. c70 at Harewood Park on 17th September.

### **Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti***

Singing male at Broomfleet Ponds on 30th January (TAE)

**Grasshopper Warbler** *Locustella naevia*

The first of the year was reported singing at Cowden Range on 13th April with birds at Tophill Low Res. on 15th and 16th; at Thorpe Marsh on 16th and Thrybergh on 17th. Quite widespread during the last week of this month and during early May. Indications are of a good breeding season with many pairs at Cowden (25 singing males in early June); 4, possibly 5, pairs at Tophill Low Res.; 1 pair at Hornsea Mere; 2 pairs at Brighton with singing males at a further 5 locations in the York area. 8 pairs at Blacktoft; 1 pair at Carlton Marsh; 4 at Thorpe Marsh; 3 at Wadworth Wood with suspected or proven breeding in V.C. 64 at Dob Park; Fairburn Ings; Farnham and Hay-a-Park. Singing Male at Catterick during May/June.

Last of the year being at Blacktoft on 11th September with an immature trapped at Flamborough on 3rd October.

**Sedge Warbler** *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

First reported at Blacktoft Sands on 9th April well ahead of the next at Tophill Low Res. on 17th thence Hornsea Mere; Spurn; Fairburn Ings and Wheldrake Ings on 18th. Breeding, where commented upon was down on 1986 in all areas excepting Flamborough where 22 pairs was the highest ever. Tophill Low Res. reported 21–23 pairs against c30 last year; Hornsea Mere, where a survey was carried out, estimated 167 pairs against 310 in 1970 and 370 in 1967 (JESW). Reported down in the Doncaster area though no counts carried out. This species has adapted to the large acreage of rape in Holderness breeding along the edges of many of these fields; a habit also commented on in the area south of Doncaster and near Sheffield. 70 pairs at Blacktoft with 65 pairs at 5 well watched locations near Barnsley. In V.C. 64; counts of singing males at Fairburn were 33; Hay-a-Park, 20; Staveley, 19; Mickletown Ings, 14 and Knostrop S.F. 20.

Late birds reported were at Pool Paper Mills on 27th September and 10th October at Blacktoft Sands.

**Marsh Warbler** *Acrocephalus palustris*

Singing male at Flamborough on 2nd June (JCL) with 1 caught at Spurn Point on 13th June.

**Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

Bred for the first time at Spurn since the establishment of the Observatory 40 years ago. Probably bred at Flamborough; 31–32 pairs at Tophill Low Res. where at least remains constant if not slightly increasing. Hornsea Mere, on the other hand shows a large decrease with c410 pairs estimated against 690 in 1970 and 760 in 1967 (JESW). 30 pairs along the Lower Derwent/Pocklington Canal; 400 pairs at Blacktoft Sands with 4 to 12 pairs at Wintersett Res.; Worsborough Res.; Carlton Marsh; Pugney's G.P. and Old Denaby. In V.C. 64; bred at 4 locations; Fairburn Ings, with 16 pairs; Mickletown Ings, 13 singing males; Lemonroyd S.F., 2 singing males and Hay-a-Park with 4 singing males.

1 at Pugney's on 19th April the first to be reported with birds at Fairburn Ings and Potteric Carr on 21st. Most had departed by late September though quite frequent coastal records during October with the last being at Filey on 1st November. Birds also reported from this location on 24th and 27th October and considered to show the characteristics of the eastern race *A.s.fuscus*.

A bird which was trapped at Doncaster Loco Sheds on 28th June had been ringed as a juvenile at Potteric Carr on 29th July 1978 and constitutes the longest lived British ringed Reed Warbler.

**Great Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus arundinaceus*

A singing male present at Blacktoft Sands on 13th May (TAE: AG: CCS *et al.*).

**Icterine Warbler** *Hippolais icterina*

Reported from Spurn with 4 on 1st September; 1 on 2nd and 1 on 16th. From Flamborough with 2 on 13th June; 1 on 18th and 19th August; 2 on 25th and 26th with 3 on 27th; 4 on 28th; 5 on 29th and 4 on 30th. 1 on 1st September and 1 trapped on 4th October. (AMA: DGH: PAL: JCL: JMP *et al*). At Filey, 1 from 26th to 29th August with a second bird on 29th. 1 on 3rd and 4th October (DB: DJW: REH *et al*). 1 on Castle Hill, Scarborough on 27th/28th August and 1 at Port Mulgrave on 3rd September (MFr).

**Subalpine Warbler** *Sylvia cantillans*

A male trapped at Grimston on 25th May (SGW).

**Barred Warbler** *Sylvia nisoria*

Recorded at Spurn Point with 2 on 28th August; 3 on 29th and 1 on 30th and 31st. 1 on 2 September; 1 on 5th October and 1 on 23rd/24th. 1 at Kilnsea on 3rd October (MGN). 1 at Flamborough on 25th August with 2 on 26th and 27th (PAL *et al*). At Filey, 1 on 24th August (TDC); 26th and 1st September (JED: MB: JHa) with another on 28th September being trapped on 3rd October, seen again on 4th and 11th and re trapped on 12th (many obs). It is considered that only 2 birds were involved at Filey. A juvenile at Bempton on 26th and 27th August. (PPh).

**Lesser Whitethroat** *Sylvia curruca*

The first reported from Thorpe Marsh on 20th April with 1 at Heslington on 22nd thence Kilnsea on 23rd and Fairburn; Cudworth, Carlton Marsh and Flamborough on 24th. Coastal passage light with Spurn recording 7 on 8th May; 7 on 24th and 11 on 25th whilst at Flamborough, 13 on 9th May; 8 on 17th; 11 on 24th and 14 on 25th.

Few comments received concerning breeding though those that did consider it to be a poor season. 5 pairs bred at Wintersett with 4 at Fairburn otherwise all locations recording 1-2 pairs.

In autumn, 9 at Flamborough on 29th August with 6 on 30th; Spurn reporting 5 on 1st September as maximum. Late records came from Thrybergh with 1 on 5th October; Spurn, with 2 on 11th and 12th, 1 of which remained until 20th and the last 1 on 16th November.

Birds considered to show the characteristics of the eastern race *S.c. blythi* were reported from Kilnsea on 5th October; Spurn on 29th September remaining until 1st October; 12th October and 16th November; at Flamborough on 30th September; 3 on 1st and 2nd October; 2 on 3rd and 4th with 1 on 11th. 1 trapped at Spurn on 11th October which stayed until 20th was thought to belong to one of the eastern races and possibly *S.c. telengitica*, a race not always recognised.

**Whitethroat** *Sylvia communis*

1 at Hornsea on 17th April was the first of the year with 1 at Wintersett and Defford Wood on 18th, and Wath and Spurn on 19th. Few at Spurn during spring with 9 at the end of April as maximum whilst at Flamborough slightly more; 12 on 9th May; 10 on 24th and 15 on 25th. 55 counted on Thorne Moors on 25th May.

Where commented upon, breeding numbers appear to be on the increase, particularly in V.C. 63 with 49 pairs at 4 locations near Barnsley against 30 pairs in 1984; Sheffield reported 'some evidence of an increase over previous years' whilst a section of the Calder valley had 23 males on territory compared with 10 in 1986. 'Well distributed' in V.C. 64 with 20 pairs at Knostrop S.F. 'Status seems to be improving' in V.C. 65.

Light autumn passage with 10 at Flamborough on 26th and 14 on 29th August; Spurn recording 20 on 1st September; 12 on 2nd; 9 on 3rd and 10 on 15th. Late birds were at Carlton Marsh on 5th October whilst along the coast at Flamborough on 11th; Spurn from 11th to 14th and on 21st with the last of the year was at Filey on 23rd.

**Garden Warbler** *Sylvia borin*

1 at Bolton Abbey on 23rd April was followed by records from Worsborough (2 birds); Wintersett on 24th; Spurn (2 birds); Tophill Low Res.; Thorpe Marsh; Gledhow Valley (Leeds) and Scotton Plantation on the 25th. Maximum count at Spurn being 5 during the 4th week of May while at Flamborough 17 were reported on 9th; 16 on 24th and 25 on 28th.

Tophill Low Res. reported their best ever breeding season; status reported unchanged in the Barnsley; Huddersfield and Wakefield areas though less widely distributed in other areas of V.C. 63. Reported as having a normal breeding season in V.C. 64.

Small numbers at Spurn during autumn with 8 in late August as most reported; Flamborough having 14 on 25th August; 42 on 26th; 48 on 27th decreasing to 12 on 28th then 16 on 29th and 11 on 30th. 1 in the Botanical Gardens, Sheffield on 14th October whilst along the coast 2 were at Spurn on 29th and 30th October 1 of which remained until 1st November. 1 at Flamborough on 4th and 5th November with 2 on 8th whilst at Filey 1 on 15th November was the latest ever reported from that location. 1 at Wetherby on 15th December may have been over wintering.

**Blackcap** *Sylvia atricapilla*

During the months January/February reported from 19 locations but very few in the eastern part of the county. Generally 1 bird being reported but 2 at 3 locations in V.C. 63. 1 singing on many calm nights in January and February near a well lit road junction in Hornsea; the bird singing between midnight and 2 am. The first assumed migrants appeared in early April with 1 at Harrogate on 8th; Worsborough on 9th and Bretton Park on 12th. At Spurn, 4 present on 5th April with 4 again on the 8th; 6 on 24th and 26th being the peak count for spring with 7 at Flamborough being the peak there on 2nd May.

Mixed breeding reports from V.C. 61 with 'very poor' in Hornsea to 'very good' at Tophill Low Res.; no other areas commenting. V.C. 63 considered this species to be well distributed, particularly in the Huddersfield areas.

In autumn, up to 33 at Spurn in the 1st week of October with 22 on 11th; and 10 to 13 on 5 other days to the end of the month. Flamborough reported 18 on 3rd/4th October with up to 15 to 21st thence 22 on 22nd; 16 on 24th and 11 on 31st. Smaller counts in November though 9 on 1st; 8 on 3rd; 13 on 7th and 14 on 8th. Filey had 9 on 11th October and 15 on 1st November as peaks there.

1-2 birds reported from many locations during December.

**Greenish Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochiloides*

1 first seen on 24th August at Filey was trapped on 27th and last seen on 28th (PJD et al) whilst a second, unringed, bird was present on 28th (PJD: AS et al).

1 at Flamborough on 29th and 30th August (ASB: RCH: VAL: PAL: AMA et al).

1 at Bempton, first observed on 26th August and present until 28th (PPh) is still under consideration by the *British Birds Rarities Committee*.

**Arctic Warbler** *Phylloscopus borealis*

An immature trapped at Flamborough on 29th August (ASB: RCH: VAL: PAL: AMA: DGH et al).

**Pallas's Warbler** *Phylloscopus proregulus*

1 trapped at Spurn Point on 17th October (JKB: BRS et al) with another trapped there on 29th October remaining until 30th (NAB: JC et al).

1 at Flamborough on 21st October with 2 on 22nd (PAL: AMA: JCL: JMP: JO: SRS) and 1 on 29th October (BSB).

1 at Filey on 30th October (PMS et al) with another on 31st (Miss JET et al) and a third bird on 7th and 8th November (Miss JET et al).

The Flamborough birds are still under consideration by the *British Birds Rarities Committee*.

**Yellow-browed Warbler** *Phylloscopus inornatus*

At Spurn, 1 from 21st to 23rd September; 1 on 27th with 2 on 28th and 3 on 29th; 2 on 30th. In October; 1 on 1st; 3rd; 4th; 5th and 6th with 2 on 21st and 22nd; 1 on 23rd and 27th. Considered to have involved at least 10 birds probably 12. 1 at Kilnsea on 27th September (AC: DMP) with 2 on 3rd October (MGN); Kilnsea/Easington with 1 on 2nd October (TMC); 2 on 4th with 1 on 28th and 31st (SML). 1 at Grimston on 19th October (SGW) whilst along the Humber, 1 at Stone Creek on 8th November and 1 at Broomfleet Ponds on 25th October (TAE).

Flamborough reported 1 on 26th September with 3 on 29th and 30th; 4 on 1st October; 3 on 2nd; 4 on 3rd; 2 on 4th; 3 on 5th. 1 on 22nd; 2 on 1st November; 1 on 4th; 5th and 7th with 2 on 8th and 1 on 9th (ASB: RCH: VAL: PAL AMA: DGH: JMP: JCL et al). 1 at Scarborough on 21st October (CH).

3 at Filey on 27th September (TLH: ABe: AF: PMS et al); 1 on 29th (JH: PMS); 2 on 2nd October (PJD) with 1-2 from 3rd until 11th (REH: DJS: PMS et al); a second bird on 11th (PJD) with the last from 6th to 8th November (SH: Miss JET: HJW et al). Considered to involve at least 7 birds.

Inland, in V.C. 63, 1 at Broomhill Park on 1st October (CN et al) and 1 at Wilthorpe Park on 7th October (RT). 1 at Northallerton on 10th October (VH).

**Radde's Warbler** *Phylloscopus schwarzi*

1 caught at Spurn on 1st October remained there until 4th (JC: AJG: TR et al) with another present from 5th to 11th trapped on the last date (JC: JED: GJS et al). The third and fourth records for the Observatory.

1 at Filey on 20th October was trapped the following day and constitutes the first record for this location (SC: PJD: HJW et al).

1 at Flamborough on 30th September (PAL) is still under consideration by the *British Birds Rarities Committee*. The seventh to tenth records for Yorkshire.

**Dusky Warbler** *Phylloscopus fuscatus*

A single immature trapped at Flamborough on 3rd November (AMA: PAL: JMP). The fifth record for Yorkshire. Still under consideration by the *British Birds Rarities Committee*.

**Wood Warbler** *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

1 at Spurn on 8th April was the second earliest recorded arrival this century (Knotford Nook 5th April 1980) with another there on 17th April. Most locations reported their first birds between 21st and 25th April though the main passage was during the latter days of this month and early May though nowhere were numbers large with 3 at Flamborough on 9th May as the most along the coast. 26 singing males at Bolton Abbey on 17th May; 25 singing males at 5 locations in the Sheffield area. Breeding was reported as good in all areas though the breeding success of last year to the south of the York O.C. area was not repeated, birds being present however. Light autumn passage along the coast with 3 at Flamborough on 26th; 27th and 29th August and 1st September. 1 at Spurn on 1st September the last there, whilst the last reported in the county was at Port Mulgrave on 3rd September.

**Chiffchaff** *Phylloscopus collybita*

Over wintering birds were reported during January/February from 2 locations in V.C. 61; from 2 locations in V.C. 62; 7 locations in V.C. 63 and 6 in V.C. 64; all assumed to be single birds. The first considered arrivals were reported from Golcar on 25th March and Spurn on 26th though 1 at Askham Bog on 18th may have been an immigrant. Widespread by mid April though coastal passage light with only Spurn reporting more than 10; 15 on 6th April being the peak count. Breeding considered to be normal throughout all areas with no apparent change in status. Light autumn passage with 13 at Flamborough on 31st October; 12 on 1st November and 10 on 8th; 12 at Spurn on 22nd October. Late birds reported were at Hunmanby on 30th November; 13th and

19th December (over wintering); Kilnsea on 14th December; Flamborough on 4th; 5th and 19th December; Spurn on 27th November (which had been ringed there on 5th October); Farnham on 22nd November; Bretton Park until 28th November and Wath Ings until 13th December.

Birds considered to belong to one or other of the eastern races were reported as follows; from Flamborough *P.c.abietinus*, 2 on 17th; 1 on 18th; 3 on 20th; 2 on 21st; 5 on 22nd and 1 on 24th; 25th and 28th October; from Filey with 1 on 15th October. *P.c.tristis* from Flamborough with 2 on 2nd; 1 on 3rd and 2 on 22nd October; 2 on 1st; 4th and 7th November with 1 on 8th/9th; 25th and 2 on 26th. Single birds of the *fulvescens* type were reported on 3rd October; 1st; 7th; 8th and 9th November.

#### **Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus***

1 in Buttercrambe Moor Wood on 19th March (per TED) is the earliest ever recorded in the county (previous earliest being 20th March 1982 at Tinsley). The next reported were 3 at Filey on 3rd April with 1 at Harthill Res. on 4th April; Thrybergh on 5th and several locations by the 6th. 38 at Spurn on 18th was their spring maximum whilst at Flamborough 85 were reported on 23rd with 35 on 24th and 36 on 25th. 46 in the Wath area on 26th with 25 at Fairburn on 21st and 20 at High Batts N.R. on 23rd.

In autumn at Spurn; 37 on 5th August; 54 on 19th; 60 on 29th with 35 on 15th September; Flamborough reporting 85 on 25th August; 155 on 26th; 125 on 27th; 65 on 28th with 170 on 29th and 80 on 30th. Inland 50 at Rodley S.W. in August the highest count reported. Several October records from V.C. 63 being unusual with single birds at Thrybergh on 5th; Stannington on 7th; Meltham on 27th and the Rivelin Valley on 31st. Along the coast the latest reported were single birds at Spurn on 23rd October and at Flamborough on 4th and 5th November.

The breeding status would appear to be unchanged with most locations reporting a successful season though Fairburn Ings had only 21 pairs compared with 40 last year; 74–78 pairs indicated by a survey on 7th June at Tophill Low Res.

A bird trapped and photographed at Flamborough on 26th August was believed by the BTO Ringing Office to be of the race *P.t.yakutensis*.

#### **Goldecrest *Regulus regulus***

Considered to have been a slight increase in the York area; 'common in suitable woods', in V.C. 65 and 'appears to maintain healthy breeding numbers' in V.C. 63. Stated at Flamborough to have been a poor year with maxima of 35 in spring on 5th April and 100 on 22nd October. At Spurn, up to 50 during the first week of April and 130 on 4th October with 150 on 12th. Between 50 and 100 in one flock at Tophill Low Res. on 28th December; 70+ at Skipwith Common on 26th October; 100 at Deffer Wood on 29th November; 100+ at Otley Chevin from October onwards and 70+ at Lindley Wood Res. from 3rd December.

#### **Firecrest *Regulus ignicapillus***

Quite widespread in V.C. 61 in spring with 1 at Spurn on 31st March; 2nd; 3rd and 5th April; 6 on 6th then 2 on 8th and 9th; 1 on 17th and 19th. 1 at Bempton on 31st March; 1st April with 2 on 2nd; 4 on 3rd; 2 on 4th and 2 on 5th. Single birds were reported from Flamborough on 5th and 6th April; Filey on 8th with possibly the same bird present on 11th; at East Newton on 7th to 9th and again on 11th (AFJ; GRB; PMS; HJW). Grimston on 6th; Garton on 9th; (TI); Cowden on 12th (AFJ); Kilnsea on 30th and 31st March (NAB) and 8th April (JCo); Paull on 7th May and Saltend on 27th May (SML; BR). Fewer in autumn with only Spurn and Flamborough recording birds. Spurn having 1 on 4th October; 2+ on 6th; 1 on 10th. 1 on 21st and 22nd November. Flamborough reporting 1 on 20th September; 5 on 1st October with 3 on 2nd; 8 on 3rd; 7 on 4th; 3 on 5th; and 2 on 31st. 1 on 1st; 2nd and 8th November.

2 at Port Mulgrave, V.C. 62, on 12th April (MJH) whilst inland, single males were reported from Pugney's on 4th and 5th April (MB *et al*); Wath Ings on 17th May (NWA;

PM: JMT); Harthill Res. on 2nd November (HV: DH) and Sprotborough Flash on 14th November (PM). In V.C. 64 at Fountains Abbey from 24th January until 1st March, though not daily (AD: BD *et al.*).

#### **Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata***

First reported at Baildon on 28th April with the next being recorded on 3rd May at Brayton Barff; Sleightholmedale and Masham then at High Royd S.F. and Meltham on 4th. Most locations not reporting birds until at least mid May. 25th May saw peak spring counts along the coast with 19 at Spurn and 30 at Flamborough. 12 at Spurn on 26th and 13 on 27th whilst this period at Flamborough had 20 on 26th; 24 there on 1st June. Up to 16 at Filey also during this influx.

Conflicting reports concerning breeding status with Filey having a good season; more abundant at Buttercrambe and Stamford Bridge though less numerous at Brayton Barff; widespread but scarce in the Sheffield areas; moderate numbers around Huddersfield and Barnsley though in V.C. 63 generally thought to have been a below average season.

Only small numbers along the coast during the autumn with 18 at Flamborough on 29th August as the only record of double figures. Late birds were 1 at Spurn from 20th to 23rd October and 1 at Flamborough on 28th.

#### **Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva***

1 at Grimston on 25th May the only spring record (SGW).

In autumn, at Spurn from 2nd October to 5th with a second bird from 4th to 5th and a third from 11th to 12th. 1 at Kilnsea from 4th to 6th October. 1 at Buckton on 3rd October (SML: JJC: PJW *et al.*). 1 at Filey on 31st August (MB: PH: BR) with a second bird on 2nd October (MO: JLFP). 2 at Flamborough on 2nd October with 1 on 3rd; 6th and 31st (AMA: PAL).

#### **Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca***

First of the year at Moorlands (York O.C. area) with the next reported on 18th April at Worsborough; Timble; Settle and Folly Hall. Reported as a good year from many locations; an increase in the Barnsley and Huddersfield areas owing to the provision of nest boxes. 21 males at Bolton Abbey on 17th May with 14 pairs breeding at Folly Hall. Several locations reported birds breeding earlier than for many years; young being reported in V.C. 65 by 30th May whilst in Sleightholmedale eggs were laid by 3rd May some 10 days earlier than the previous earliest recorded date in that area.

Autumn passage at Flamborough peaked in late August with 28 on 26th; 26 on 27th; 32 on 28th thence 46 on 29th decreasing thereafter. Spurn had 18 on 1st September otherwise less than 10. 10 on 28th August was the peak count from Filey with no other location reporting more than 6 birds. Late birds reported were 17th to 19th and 20th October at Spurn; 23rd at Filey and 27th; 29th October and 4th November at Flamborough.

#### **Bearded Tit *Panurus biarmicus***

Only small numbers present at Blacktoft Sands during January increasing in March/April with a breeding population of c70 pairs. Good success with 1st broods; moderate with 2nd and 3rd; irruptions from 15th September with the population estimated at c500; 200 remaining after mid November to winter.

A pair at Carlton Marsh on 3rd January with a female there on 31st January; 15th February and 13th March (PS *et al.*). 1 at Potteric Carr on 11th January (RJS). 1 on Thorne Moors on 17th June.

The only other records came from V.C. 61 with 4 south at Spurn on 24th October; 1 at Hornsea Mere on 11th January; 2nd February; 25th May; 2 on 15th; 17th-19th July with 1 on 27th July and 8th August (GRB: JESW); 2 on 17th October and 9th November (RSPB). 2 at Saltend from 1986 until 17th March; 1 on 8th April and 8 on 7th November (BR). Up to 3 birds present at Broomfleet Ponds throughout January-March with a pair on 23rd April; 4 juveniles on 20th June; 6 birds from 10th to 26th July; 2 from 7th

August to 28th September thence up to 5 birds present from 11th October to the end of the year (TAE). 4 at Filey on 23rd October (PJD: JA *et al*). 8 flew north over Aughton on 20th January (TED).

Addition to the 1986 Report: 4 at Carlton Marsh on 25th and 28th October with 1 there on 30th; 2 on occasional dates to 6th December; 10 at Wintersett Res on 11th October with 2 on 14th/15th November.

#### **Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus***

Generally a good breeding season with Flamborough commenting that the recent decline appears to have been halted. Flocks reported from V.C. 61 being 44 at Tophill Low Res. on 4th January; 24 at Broomfleet Ponds on 30th May and 35 in Elvington Woods in late summer. In V.C. 63, 25 near Bingley on 11th January was the largest party reported during the early months with 38 at Worsborough on 26th November being the maximum for the latter months though 33 at Esholt S.W. on 3rd June. A white headed bird was present in a party of 9 at Bretton Park on 8th February and is assumed to be the bird reported there in late 1986 (JER). Maximum reported during the early months in V.C. 64 being 60 at Fairburn Ings on 13th January with 30+ at Lindley Wood Res. on 2nd January. Up to 60 at Lindley Wood Res. in autumn; 50 at Bolton Abbey on 25th October with several locations reporting parties of 20 to 40.

Addition to 1984 Report: 50–60 at Black Brook (near Elland) on 25th July.

#### **Marsh Tit *Parus palustris***

Scarce in V.C. 61 with 1 at Filey on 4th July being only the 3rd record in 10 years. 1 at Hornsea Mere on 26th January otherwise the few birds reported were from the areas to the west and north of this V.C.

Small numbers in the York area with 10 at Yearsley on 11th October whilst 3–4 pairs bred at Askham Bog; possibly 2 pairs at Strensall Common and 2 sites near Brandsby.

In V.C. 63 only occurs regularly in the southeast (south and east of Maltby) where considered quite common. Away from there 1 in Rivelin valley on 18th January and 1 in Bretton Park during November/December.

Very local away from woodland in the east of V.C. 64 and certain areas of the dales though no change in status considered. 20 at Fountains Abbey on 29th January with 10 at High Batts N.R. on 13th August and 20th September; 15 between Hubberholme and Starbotten on 31st October. Recorded 'everywhere' in V.C. 65.

#### **Willow Tit *Parus montanus***

Bred in V.C. 61 at Tophill Low Res.; Everingham and 6 locations in the York area with no apparent change in status. Slightly more widespread in V.C. 63 than the last species with breeding at 4 locations in the Sheffield area; 2 near Huddersfield and 1 near Barnsley. Present at many more lowland sites. 14 were reported from Wath Ings on 6th November with 8 at Worsborough on 26th. Very few records from the Bradford or Halifax areas.

In V.C. 64, a slightly more westerly bias than Marsh Tit with no change in status detected. Outside the breeding season the highest counts were 5 at Brayton Barff on 28th October and 6 at Fairburn Ings during November.

In V.C. 65, only reported from Bolton-on-Swale; Masham G.P.; Newton-le-Willows; Thornton Steward and Catterick Village. Much less common than the previous species and very local in distribution.

#### **Coal Tit *Parus ater***

Thinly distributed in V.C. 61 with only Tophill Low Res. reporting definite breeding though birds present during the summer months at 6 other locations. No flocks reported from this V.C. with very few records also from V.C. 62 where doubtless under recorded; 10 at Newtondale on 31st January with c50 there on 30th August. Widespread as a breeding species in the coniferous woodlands of V.C. 63; flocks of 30 in Deffer Wood on 29th October and 50 in Bretton Park being the highest reported. A similar situation

in V.C. 64 with no change in status considered and flocks of 40+ near Eccup Res. on 11th August and 50+ on Otley Chevin on 28th November. Stated as common in suitable habitat in V.C. 65.

#### **Blue Tit *Parus caeruleus***

'Remains very common and widespread' in V.C. 64 otherwise no comments received on status and assumed to be unchanged. Slight peaks noted along the coast during spring and autumn with 40 at Flamborough on 5th April and 60 there on 23rd October; Filey having up to 50 during October and Spurn recording 70 on 31st August; 42 on 1st October and 50 on 11th. Inland, in V.C. 63, flocks of 45+ reported from Worsborough; Rivelin Hagg; Bretton Park; Wyoming Brook; Blacktoft Sands; Redmires; Clifton Beck (Halifax) and Anston Stones Wood on at least 1 occasion during the year, 120 at Bretton Park on 28th November being the highest. V.C. 64 had maximum counts of 79 at Eccup on 12th February; 109 at Bramley Fall Woods (Leeds) on 27th June and 150+ at Adel Woods (Leeds) on 1st July.

#### **Great Tit *Parus major***

Few records received; evidence of passage at Flamborough during October and early November though numbers involved small. Poor breeding season in V.C. 64 though numbers considered to remain unchanged. Flocks reported being c50 in Adel Woods on 1st July; 50 at Bretton Park on 28th November with 40 ringed in Anston Stones Wood on 15th December.

#### **Nuthatch *Sitta europaea***

Very rare in the east of the county thus 1 to 2 birds present at Filey from 25th August to the end of the year with 3 on 8th November and 2nd December were most unusual. 1 in Scampston Park on 22nd February. Present in the York area during the breeding season though not proven to do so. 1 at South Duffield on 27th July was away from the usual haunts.

In V.C. 63 bred at Stainbrough; near Shipley and near Bingley with possible breeding occurring at 4 locations in the Sheffield area and 1 near Huddersfield. 2 in Bretton Park on 29th March with 1-2 there during November/December. Occasionally reported from 5 other locations in this V.C.

In V.C. 64, continues to increase in the Leeds area where 11 pairs bred in the Meanwood valley. 20 were counted in Roundhay Park (Leeds) on 17th January with 10 at Ripon on 12th August and 13 at Bolton Abbey on 23rd December.

Bred at Slinnerton Beck near Pickering and possibly at Duncombe Park, in V.C. 62 whilst in V.C. 65 considered to be fairly common in suitable locations.

#### **Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris***

Under recorded in V.C. 61 with breeding only reported from Flamborough and Tophill Low Res. Slight passage indicated at Flamborough during autumn with birds considered to be of northern origin reported on 20th; 23rd October and 5th November. Widely but locally distributed in areas of V.C. 63 and reported breeding in most society areas; 10 at Stainbrough on 10th April with 12 in Bretton Park on 28th November. Widespread throughout V.C. 64 and apparently increasing in the Leeds area though only 3 reports from Fairburn Ings during the whole year. 10+ in Roundhay Park on 17th January.

#### **Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus***

3 at Spurn on 25th May, included 1 male; the females being seen to depart to the west with the male remaining to the following day. A female at Sunk Island on 9th May (SP: JW). A male at Tophill Low Res. on 24th April remaining until 27th (PWI: RL: PMS *et al*) with a male at Filey on 29th (PJD). Male at Flamborough on 2nd June (JCL).

**Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio***

A adult female at Wath Ings from 27th July to 2nd August (SR *et al*) and an immature near Pickering on 28th August otherwise all records came from the coast.

At Spurn, a male on 24th to 26th May; another on 3rd July; in August, 1 on 25th; 27th; 28th; 2 on 29th; 4 on 30th and 1 on 31st. 2 on 1st September with 2 the following day; 1 on 3rd and 4th. Flamborough reported 3 on 13th June with 1 on 14th and 15th. 1 on 1st; 10th and 12th July; 18th August with 2 on 25th; 1 on 26th; 2 on 27th increasing to 3 on 28th and 29th then 2 on 30th and 1 on 31st. Single birds there on 1st; 2nd; 4th and 17th September. A male at Filey on 25th May with another on 13th June and a juvenile on 1st September. 1 at Grimston on 29th August; 1 juvenile at Cowden on 30th and a juvenile at Holmpton on 1st September.

**Great Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor***

1 near Muston (V.C. 61) on 16th April (DB: JH: KW). 1 at RAF Fylingdales on 27th April. 1 near Wheldrake Ings on 28th January; (TED). 1 on Yearsley Moor on 8th March and again on 22nd (TB: JC: PH). 1 regularly from 20th November to 8th December in the Acaster Selby/Appleton Roebuck areas (FO: ML). In V.C. 63, 1 in the Westwood/Tankersley Park areas from 8th March until 14th April (WRR: KDR *et al*); 1 at Swinden Plantation, Langsett area on 22nd; 29th October (RF: DJH) and 1 at Digley on 15th November (HQ). 1 on Thorne Moors on 17th November. 1 in the Pickering area in late December.

Addition to 1986 Report: 1 at Bretton Park on 16th November.

**Jay *Garrulus glandarius***

Few reported from the eastern half of the county; 1-4 reported from Hornsea Mere between January-April and 1-2 there during November/December. Considered to have bred there and possibly at Rise Park. 1 at Buckton on 20th October. 6 near Everingham on 15th April with 3 at Eastrington on 24th October. In the York area; 15 at Crockey Hill during February and 6 at Brayton Barff on 12th April. c20 at Ellerburn near Pickering in late February.

Status unchanged in V.C. 64 with widespread breeding reported in V.C. 63.

**Magpie *Pica pica***

Probably still slowly increasing along the coast with up to 30 in the Atwick/Skipsea areas during the winter months. 37 at Flamborough on 14th November where 14 on the outer head on 20th May were considered to be migrants.

50 in Staintondale on 7th March being the highest count for V.C. 62.

50+ reported from several locations in V.C. 63 where considered to be increasing particularly in urban areas; 112 at Wath Ings on 12th December with 110 at Worsborough on 31st January. A similar situation occurs in V.C. 64 with frequent flocks of 45+; larger counts being 120 in Gledhow Valley Woods, Leeds, on 12th February and 31st December; 170 at Rodley S.F. on 28th February.

A leucistic bird at Ilkley throughout most of the year.

**Jackdaw *Corvus monedula***

Many pairs bred on the cliffs of Flamborough Head with migrants noted there occasionally; 20 on 9th May; 110 on 19th September; 70 on 25th October and 75 on 6th November. 4 reported coming in off the sea at Hornsea on 7th November. 1000 were roosting at Hornsea Mere during January whilst at Tophill Low Res. 1300 were recorded on 2nd January with 820 on 11th and 3800 on 25th. 1000 on 1st December with 800 on 31st.

No change in status noted in V.C. 63 and 64 though in the latter winter flocks were considered to be smaller than in previous years. In V.C. 63, 243 flew southwest over Redmires on 23rd October; 1000 going to roost over Bretton Park on 15th November.

1100 at Stainton on 26th September. High Batts, in V.C. 64, reported up to 700 in August and 750 during December whilst 500 were at Eccup on 8th December. 2625 at Thornton Steward, in V.C. 65, on 28th October.

#### Rook *Corvus frugilegus*

No reports to indicate a change in status or distribution received. The rookery on the electricity pylons at Stocksbridge declined from 85 to 70 nests. The largest flocks reported being 3000 at Hornsea Mere during December; 2000 at Tophill Low Res. on 25th January and 1st December with 1000+ on several other winter days. 1000 at Hornsea Mere in January whilst 1300 at Thornton Steward on 20th February and up to 1000 at Angler's during November and December. 1000 at Brighton on 9th July with 2500 at Stamford Bridge on 20th November. No more than 500 reported in any one flock in V.C. 64.

#### Carrion Crow *Corvus corone*

Largest gatherings reported were 100 at Roundhay Park, Leeds on 22nd January; over 100 at Booth Dam, Rippenden on 12th July; 80+ at Woodlands Valley, Sheffield on 10th November and 60+ at Esholt S.W. on 17th May and Thornton Steward on 6th February.

Migrants noted along the coast at Flamborough with 24 on 19th April; 55 on 20th; 16 on 25th and 33 on 30th. 85 there on 6th November with 79 on 29th. 7 reported coming in off the sea at Hornsea on 7th November whilst at Spurn Point birds were reported flying south on many days in April with 36 on 10th as peak. 119 at Sunk Island on 26th September with 61 flying west there on 14th November.

Considered to be very common and widespread with no apparent change of status in V.C. 64 whilst in the Huddersfield area of V.C. 63, the 6th most widely distributed species.

Birds showing the characteristics of the race *C.c.cornix*; Hooded Crow; were slightly more common this year with Spurn having many records of 1-3 birds from March to May with 8 on 20th April and again from late October to end of year with 6+ on 4th November. A similar situation at Flamborough with 6 there on 19th May and 5 on 21st and 1 on 1st and 26th June. 1-3 on 14 other days during the year. 2 at Sewerby on 22nd February whilst at least 1 bird was reported from 9 other locations along the coast and estuary on 1 or more days.

Inland, birds were reported from Wheldrake Ings on 24th/25th January and 23rd November; Potteric Carr on 7th May; Cusworth Hall (Doncaster) on 2nd October; Blacktoft Sands on 13th April; Storiths on 12th April and Hutton Conyers on 16th.

2 possible Carrion x Hooded Crow hybrids were reported from Spurn Point on 20th April with 1 on 27th February and 27th April.

#### Raven *Corvus corax*

A pair attempted to breed in the northwest of the county. 1 reported near Buckden Pike on 27th September (KM) with 2 near Agill on 21st June (AJS).

#### Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

In V.C. 61; roosts of over 10000 were few; 20000 regularly at Thorne Wick Bay during both winters with 10700 at Tophill Low Res. on 30th November whilst on 4th December more than 25000 were either in the area or passed over. 3000 flew south at Spurn on 20th October with 3000 on 3rd November which came off the sea and mainly continued to the northwest. 12000 at Mickletown Ings in autumn; 14000 at Blacktoft on 17th September with 10000 there during October.

#### House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

A further decline in numbers at Spurn whilst in the Hornsea area numbers well down on those reported some 20 years ago with the hedge row and stubble field flocks of 400-500 no longer reported; numbers caught at one site being only 10 per cent of those caught in the late 1960's. Very few counts of flocks received but 650 at Wath on 1st

July; 400 at Worsborough on 2nd September and 600 at Thrybergh on 11th September. During the very severe weather of January birds remained actively foraging throughout the night at Doncaster and York railway stations.

#### **Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus***

Some recovery of breeding population at Flamborough after several poor years. Possible decline in the Huddersfield and Sheffield areas though precise data lacking. An increase in the number of sightings reported in V.C. 64 though whether this reflects an increase in birds or due to observers responding to requests is not sure. Flocks reported being 250 at Black Carr Woods on 7th June; 150 at Bardsey on 2nd December; 100+ at High Green on 24th December with 500 at Flamborough on 7th November. Little passage noted at Spurn. 100 south at Long Nab on 6th December.

#### **Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs***

No comments received on status. Largest flocks reported were: 450 at Hawnby on 2nd November; 300 at Redmires on 14th March; 210 there on 13th November; 250 at Gouthwaite on 4th January; 230 at The Hollies (Leeds) on 22nd January and 200 at a picnic site in Scarborough on 8th January.

Little passage noted at Spurn with 195 on 13th April and 100 on 21st October being maxima; Flamborough reported few in spring with 190 on 20th October; 80 on 7th November; 100 on 8th; 150 on 26th and 170 on 29th. 54 flew west at Sunk Island on 1st November with 95 west there on 14th.

In V.C. 63 westerly movement was reported from Drop Clough near Huddersfield with 3752 being recorded between 25th September and 22nd October; 1084 being the maximum in 1 day, on 11th October. Redmires also reported westerly passage during this period with peaks of 935 on 10th October; 445 on 12th and 420 on 22nd.

#### **Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla***

Widely distributed during the early months though flocks were mainly small with 320 at Broadstones on 8th January as highest reported. 300 at Barton Hall on 31st January and a flock at Aughton increasing to 250 by 18th January. The flock at Broadstones decreasing to 100 by end of month with 100–130 at Ingbirchworth from 4th–8th; 100+ at Castle Howard on 17th; 150+ at West Wood on 11th February, 100 at Ingbirchworth on 11th increasing to 200–250 by 14th/15th; up to 100 at High Batts during the month with 50 at Ripon Parks. The flock at Ingbirchworth had decreased to below 100 by the end of that month though 120 were there on 11th April. 60 at Redmires on 14th March; 50 at High Batts increasing to 70 on 12th April with 50 at Eccup throughout the first 3 months of the year and 55 at Wilsic on 21st March. The last reported was on 27th April at Wothersome.

A male in full summer plumage was reported from Tophill Low Res. on 5th and 9th August with the next reported from Spurn on 20th September. Light coastal passage with 90 at Spurn on 20th October; Flamborough having 64 on this date with 60 on 22nd. Passage noted at Redmires Res. with 84 flying northwest on 26th October and 135 in the same direction on 28th. As with the early months of the year well distributed in the latter months though again no large flocks; 300 at Ripon Parks on 7th December after 250 there on 28th November being the most reported. 70 at Bretton Park on 2nd November decreasing to 50–60 through the latter half of that month; 86 at Shadwell, Leeds and 50 at Lotherton Hall during November/December.

#### **Serin *Serinus serinus***

A single male reported from Spurn on 29th April (NAB).

#### **Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris***

Slightly conflicting reports concerning status with a general impression of smaller numbers than formerly around the Huddersfield and Sheffield areas whilst far greater numbers of singing males than normal in parts of the Leeds and Harrogate areas during spring. Largest flocks reported in the early months were 200–300 at Eccup Res. from

early January regularly until late March; c200 at Whitwell grain stores on 17th January; 190 at both Aughton on 15th January and Redmires on 14th March; 150 at Seamer Road Mere, Scarborough on 2nd February.

Similar sized flocks reported in the latter months with 200 at Farnham on 5th October; 200 at Ingbirchworth on 6th and 20th September; 150 at Thornton on 30th November and several locations reporting between 100 and 120 birds.

Southerly passage noted at Spurn in mid October with 272 on 12th; 266 on 13th and 403 on 22nd. 135 flew east at Sunk Island on 11th.

#### **Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis***

Considered widespread in V.C. 63 though flocks fewer and smaller than several years ago. No other comments reported on status and thus assumed to be otherwise unchanged.

145 at Fairburn Ings on 16th February being the largest flock reported with numbers at Clifton Airfield increasing from 25 on 19th July to 137 on 23rd August thence down to 70 on 5th September with 35 remaining on 11th October. A similar build up at North Duffield from 30 on 3rd August to 110 on 7th October. 100 at Thornton on 2nd October; 100+ at Ellerburn on 28th February; 80 at Duck Street Quarry on 20th September; up to 60 at Keswick Fitts in late February; 55 at Malham Tarn on 13th October with flocks of 40 to 50 occasionally at Wath Ings; Ingbirchworth; Old Denaby; Wooley Woods (Sheffield); Ribble valley and Skipton S.W.

Southerly passage at Spurn peaked at 283 on 12th October with only small number elsewhere.

#### **Siskin *Carduelis spinus***

The only breeding records received were from V.C. 63 at Wyning Brook; Strines; Ewden/Broomhead areas and the Little Don Valley though no numbers reported. No large flocks reported with 70 at Wyning Brook on 23rd January being the highest; 60 in Parlington Park on 18th January; 55 in Roundhay Park on 1st February; 50 near Settle on 16th March; 50+ near Ellerburn on 28th February and 40 at Esholt S.W. on 16th March being other counts of note.

Parties in the latter months were 200 in the Nidd Gorge on 6th December; 100 at High Batts during December with 60+ near Ellerburn Fish Farm on 21st December; 56 at Broomhead Res. on 21st November and 55 at Bretton Park on 22nd November. Light passage noted at several locations in V.C. 63 with 74 west at Redmires on 23rd September; 40+ west there on 3 days during October; 40 west at Wath on 17th October.

In the east of the county very scarce with 11 south at Spurn on 4th October as the maximum there; 12 at Flamborough on 19th September where considered as a very poor year, though 50 at Hornsea on 10th January was exceptional. A male and female at Wilsic on 13th June were the first reported in the Doncaster area in this month.

#### **Linnet *Carduelis cannabina***

Few comments received on status though in the Sheffield area general decline in flock sizes apparent; breeding numbers stated to be down in the Doncaster/Rotherham areas due to habitat loss (tidying up of 'scrub').

Flocks over 100 were reported from Roscarrs with 140 on 7th March; 120 at Wintersett during February; 100 at Crosland Hill (Huddersfield) on 12th February; 170 at Broadstones on 21st with 230 at Winterset on 24th March. 100+ at 4 locations in the Harrogate area during January. Slightly higher counts during the latter months with 800 at Wath on 24th August; 500 at Edderthorpe on 20th. 450 at Wintersett on 18th September; c200 at Hetchell Woods on 27th September; 180 at Blackmoorfoot on 11th October and 175 at Fairburn during October. Many locations reporting parties of between 80 and 150 during these last months of the year.

Passage along the coast normal with Spurn reporting 390 south on 13th April; 167 south on 1st May; 400 on 23rd September and 554 on 9th October. 250 at Flamborough

on 14th September; 450 on 17th with 350 on 19th; in October 350 on 1st; 550 on 2nd; 150 on 3rd and 200 on 9th. Along the Humber at Sunk Island; 163 flew west on 12th April with 372 east on 3rd October. 154 east on 11th and 450 east on 17th.

#### **Twite *Carduelis flavirostris***

Breeding quite widespread but not high on the southern Pennines of V.C. 63; normal breeding season in V.C. 64; no comments from V.C. 65.

In spring; 60 at Broadstones from 15th April into May whilst 20 to 30 were reported during April from Digley; Pole Moor; Harden Moor and Colden Dale, in V.C. 63. In V.C. 64, 30 at Addingham Moorside on 13th April with 20 there in late March and 20+ at Otley G.P. on 21st February. 19 at Flamborough on 17th January being the highest count from the coast in the early months.

Higher counts during the latter months with 150 at Holme (Huddersfield) on 15th September; 100 on Bingley Moor in September; 50 at Helwith Bridge; Malham Moor; Eldwick during September or early October. A flock at Blackmoorfoot increased from 25 on 28th November to 40 by Christmas and 137 on 30th December (highest winter count for the Huddersfield area).

On the coast; 32 at Long Nab on 30th October; 33 at Flamborough on 3rd November with 32 there on 30th December; 44 south at Hornsea on 17th October and 24 the following day. 41 south at Spurn on 22nd October with 28 present there on 30th. 12 west at Sunk Island on 14th November

#### **Redpoll *Carduelis flammea***

Very few breeding records from V.C. 61 or V.C. 62. V.C. 63 commented 'another finch showing a decline in numbers since the 1970's – breeding remains widespread though numbers not high'. In V.C. 64 'appears to have decreased and few reports of breeding'.

Only small numbers reported from V.C. 61 with 32 south at Spurn as the highest count. Few parties of more than 10 reported elsewhere. Slightly more in the York area with 65 at Roscarrs on 15th January; 60 at Sturge's Pond on 29th September with 45 there on 1st December. In V.C. 63; 85 at Wath Ings on 25th January; 40 at Thrybergh on 2nd January and 40 at Hooton Common on 18th. Several flocks of 40 in the Sheffield area during April. During the latter months; 100 in Greno Woods (Sheffield) on 16th November with 70 at Edderthorpe on 4th December; 67 at Wintersett on 1st December and 85 at RAF Finningley on 28th October. 150 on Thorpe Marsh on 11th October.

In V.C. 64, most parties during the early months were of the order of 20 birds but 100 were at Eccup in late February with up to 85 at Fairburn Ings during that month and 50 at Knaresborough on 8th March. Similar sized flocks during the latter months with larger ones reported from Cockett Moss where 60 on 31st August; 60 at Alwoodley (Leeds) on 1st November and c80 at Horton-in-Ribblesdale on 11th September.

1-2 birds showing the characteristics of the Mealy Redpoll *C.f.flammea* were reported from Tophill Low Res.; Bempton; Filey; Brighton; Sheffield Botanical Gardens; Ripon; Roundhay Park (Leeds); Fleet Plantation (Leeds); Temple Newsam; Leighton Res. and Ben Rhydding. 3 reported from Flamborough on 17th October; from Catcliffe on 23rd February with 5 at Wath Ings on 25th January and Fairburn Ings regularly from 7th February to 22nd March.

#### **Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra***

Breeding reported from Wykeham Forest and Hawnby (V.C. 62); Wyming Brook, Strines, Agden and Langsett and probably also near Huddersfield (V.C. 63). Less than 10 pairs at all locations with 2nd broods reported in June and July at Langsett. In V.C. 63 all records were of small numbers with the exception of 15 at Wyming Brook on 22nd December with a similar situation in V.C. 64 where 17+ at Lindley Wood Res. on 8th January was the largest party reported. Very few records from V.C. 61 with 3

at Kilnsea on 27th September; 1 there on 30th October; 2 at Everingham on 12th and 17th June; 1 at Sunk Island on 26th April and 2 at Tophill Low Res. on 25th July with 1 there on 6th September.

#### **Scarlet Rosefinch** *Carpodacus erythrinus*

A adult male near Skipton from 1st June to mid July (SEO: PMW) and an immature at Flamborough on 26th August (PAL).

#### **Bullfinch** *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

No apparent change in status or distribution reported. Largest parties reported being 25 at Rockley during December and a similar count at Potteric Carr during November; 22 at Wentworth Park on 1st December and 22 at Turner Clough (Halifax) on 2nd; 20 at High Batts on both 20th September and 20th December. Many locations reporting parties of 10-12. Passage over Redmires Res. and Burbage Moor exceeded that recorded in previous years with over 50 birds reported in late October including 11 on 24th. Birds considered to be of the nominate race *P.p.pyrrhula* were recorded at Flamborough with 1 on 1st November; 2 on 6th and 3 on 28th. 1 at Hornsea on 7th November (PAL: GRB *et al*).

#### **Hawfinch** *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

3 single females in the Spurn area in April with 1 in the lighthouse area from 3rd to 8th; 1 near the Warren on 5th and 6th and 1 near Kilnsea church from 3rd to 6th. 1 near the Humber Bridge Country Park on 19th March (BR). In the York area, a pair considered to have bred at Wass with nest building observed on 23rd April and a family party of 5 there on 5th July. 1 at Bishopthorpe on 3rd February; 1 at Fulford Ings on 17th February and another there on 9th September. 2 pairs bred near Hawnyby in V.C. 62.

In V.C. 63 1-3 reported from 7 locations mainly in the winter months with higher counts from Stainborough with 14 on 21st February and seen regularly throughout the year there with 3 singing males in April; up to 16 roosting at Sprotborough in January with 5 pairs breeding locally; 13 at Rockley on 31st January. As well as above, bred at Wooley Woods (Sheffield) with at least 3 pairs present and at Wentworth Park. Counts during the latter months being 21 in Wooley Woods on 25th December and record numbers for Bretton Park with 2 on 1st November increasing to 10 on 25th thence 15 on 5th December and 17 on 9th.

In V.C. 64, considered to have bred near Bolton Abbey and attempted to breed near Leeds. Numbers at Fountains Abbey peaked at 40 on 11th January with 12 near Ripon on 17th January; up to 8 in February at Whinmoor (Leeds) with 6 at Otley on 25th January. 1-2 birds reported from 10 other locations.

Single bird near Little Langton, in V.C. 65, on 29th July.

#### **Lapland Bunting** *Calcarius lapponicus*

Reported regularly at Spurn during the early months though small numbers with peaks of 9 on 7th February; 14 on 17th March and 8 on 18th. 28 flew south at Rolston on 18th January with 12 at Filey on 17th January and up to 14 at Long Nab during mid month. The largest numbers were reported from Barmston where 40 were counted on 2nd January (PB) though small counts then until 7th March when 15 were reported. 6 at Aldbrough on 17th January (AFJ).

First of autumn was at Flamborough on 13th September followed by 1 at Spurn on 15th. 7 at Flamborough on 20th after which birds reported quite frequently though in varying numbers; peak counts being 30 on 25th October; 41 on 1st November; 20 on 3rd; 24 on 5th; 52 on 7th and 39 on 9th. Filey, during this period had peak monthly counts of 15 in October; 23 in November and 25 in December. 26 at Thornwick Bay on 25th October whilst along the coast at Barmston 28 were counted on 7th November with 50 on 28th (BR: SML). In December 37 present on 1st; 50 on 12th; 70 on 14th;

80 on 15th; 31 on 21st and 32 on 24th (JED: BR: KR *et al*). Small numbers on many days at Spurn with 11 on 4th October; 15 on 10th and 16 south on 6th December.

Inland, at Blacktoft: 2 north on 28th February, 1 present on 5th April with 1 west on 21st October (AG); 1 southwest over Burbage Moor on 28th October; 1 south there on 29th October and 1 west on 28th November (PAA: KC: KRG); 1 south at Strines on 29th October (RAF) and 1 over Wintersett on 15th November (GJS: SD). In V.C. 64: singles at Fairburn Ings on 24th October and 26th December with 1 west over Eccup on 2nd December. 5 at Bolton-on-Swale, in V.C. 65, on 7th March.

#### **Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis***

Fewer records at Spurn with smaller numbers. 12 on 8th January being the peak count in the early months with 30 on 12th November the highest in the latter months though 50 flew south on 22nd November. 1-20 occasionally along cliff top fields in V.C. 61, higher numbers reported from Kilnsea with 34 on 25th January and 23 along the Humber at Paull on 3rd. Slightly more during the latter months with 20 off the sea at Filey on 13th October; 52 there on 22nd November and 60 on 28th. Flamborough recorded 40 on 24th November with 45 on 25th; 80 on 28th; 85 on 29th with 48 on 12th December and 27 on 19th. Barmston reported the highest numbers during both winters with 80 on 2nd January; 39 on 3rd; 62 on 7th thence up to 13 to mid February. In the latter months; 108 on 15th November; 40 on 24th; 75 on 30th; 30 on 3rd December; 130 on 12th; 15 on 14th; 125 on 15th and 80 on 21st (JED: DW: KR: PB: BR *et al*). 35 at Tunstall on 20th December with 50 at Haverfield Ponds on 14th November. Southerly passage noted at Hornsea with 37 on 26th March; 34 on 21st November; 85 on 22nd November and 11 on 16th December (GRB).

Inland; 3 flew west over Wheldrake Ings on 22nd November (MLD) whilst in V.C. 63, 3 at Angler's on 18th January with 1 there on 31st; 14th February; 1 at Lindley Moor (Huddersfield) on 2nd February and 1 at Blacktoft from 24th March to 1st April. 9 at Bentley Pit on 17th/18th January. Many records during the latter months with 74 near Blacktoft on 13th December remaining until 22nd thence 60 on 25th and 40 to the end of the year (AG *et al*). 5 over Burbage Moor on 1st November with another 5 there on 27th; possibly 8 on 28th then 'a few' until the last 2 on 20th December (PAA: KRG *et al*). 2 west at Blacktoft on 3rd November. Single birds were reported from Redmires on 4th November (RDH); Upper Ewden from 14th to 23rd November (JH); Winscar Res. on 24th November (MW); Angler's on 16th and 19th November with 'a few' from 20th to 24th December on Slaithwaite Moor. 1 at Southfield Res. from 1st-7th December and 1 north there on 21st.

In V.C. 64, 1 at Fairburn from 2nd to 4th January with 1 there on 1st November; also in November 1 at Timble on 7th; at Barden Moor on 8th; Farnham on 25th and Haverah Park on 26th. In December, 2 near Bolton Abbey on 30th with 15 on Buckden Pike on 22nd. The only record from V.C. 65 was of 1 at Bolton-on-Swale on 7th and 8th March.

#### **Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella***

No change in breeding status or distribution reported.

A flock of up to 150 was at Atwick during both January and November/December; 145 at Flamborough on 29th November and c100 at Melbourne on 30th October otherwise 80 at Aughton on 18th January; 70 at Flamborough on 28th December and up to 70 at Filey during January. Many locations recording 20-45 during the winter months.

Inland, in V.C. 63, 400 reported at Westwood on 1st January with 100 in the Rother Valley C.P. on 17th; 80 at Wath Ings on 17th and 60 at Stourfoot on 8th. Smaller counts during the latter months with 130 at Wath Ings on 31st October; 100 at Wintersett on 25th December and 65 at Edderthorpe on the last days of November. No flocks of over 100 reported from V.C. 64 with the highest counts being 70 at High Batts on 10th

February; 63 at Fairburn Ings in December; 50 at Bardsey on 31st January with 50 at Eccup on 1st February and 67 there on 30th September. No large counts reported from V.C. 65.

#### **Ortolan Bunting *Emberiza hortulana***

A single immature at Flamborough on 17th September (PAL: JMP).

#### **Rustic Bunting *Emberiza rustica***

Single females at Flamborough on 20th May (JCL: PAL: JMP); on 23rd May (AMA: DGH: PAL: JMP *et al*) with a male on 24th (AMA: JCL: PAL: DAR). All three are still under consideration by the *British Birds Rarities Committee*.

#### **Little Bunting *Emberiza pusilla***

Singles at Flamborough on 25th May (AMA: PAL) and 3rd October (DH: JMP: MJP). Both still under consideration by the *British Birds Rarities Committee*.

#### **Yellow-breasted Bunting *Emberiza aureola***

Single immature at Flamborough on 30th August (AMA: PAL). Under consideration by the *British Birds Rarities Committee*.

#### **Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus***

5 pairs at Grimwith Res. on 24th June indicated an extension of breeding range; few other comments received excepting fewer wintering around Sheffield but an increase noted in birds visiting gardens during winter in this area and Huddersfield. Between 25 and 31 pairs bred at Tophill Low Res.; c125 pairs at Blacktoft; 25 pairs at Fairburn Ings; 20 at Mickletown Ings. Winter flocks reported were up to 100 near Atwick in January; November/December; 250 at Blacktoft during October with up to 150 to the end of the year; 102 at Fairburn Ings on 22nd November with 45 there in December and 60 at Farnham on 18th January.

Light passage reported from the coast with 52 south at Spurn on 12th October whilst at Flamborough 59 recorded on 24th October; 62 on 25th; 75 on 27th and 45 on 28th. 125+ at Barmston on 30th November.

#### **Black-headed Bunting *Emberiza melanocephala***

Single male at Broomfleet Ponds on 20th June (TAE) constitutes the first record for Yorkshire.

#### **Corn Bunting *Miliaria calandra***

No comments received from V.C.s 61 or 62 though in V.C. 63, none located in the Halifax area where considered scarce in 1983; less frequently located around Huddersfield than in the 1970's; marked decline in the Sheffield area over the last 10 years; only 1 record in the Bradford area; at Apperley Bridge on 11th January but 'a widespread breeding bird' in the Barnsley area. In V.C. 64 'confined to the eastern parts where cereal fields still have hedges and fences'.

Largest gatherings reported being 600 at Filey on 10th January rapidly decreasing to 70 on 16th; 65 on 4th February but 120 on 7th; 300 at Bilton on 6th December; 155 at Wath Ings on 9th January with 90 there on 12th December. 150 at Atwick on 18th January with similar numbers during November and December. In V.C. 61 between 40 and 70 were occasionally reported from Thorngumbald; Barmston; Tophill Low Res. and Wilsthorpe. Up to 100 occasionally at Spurn during February-April with smaller counts during the latter months and very little southerly passage noted. Highest counts at Flamborough being 55 on 5th and 18th April with 110 on 1st November.

## The Need for Field Descriptions

It is our aim to continue to present these reports with complete accuracy so that those who use them in future may accept the records of all species without doubt or query.

To maintain this accuracy contributors are reminded that all records of rare or uncommon and difficult species are considered by the Reports Committee before being accepted for publication, and where appropriate forwarded to *British Birds* for their decision.

The work of the Reports Committee can be aided considerably if observers will submit descriptions as soon as possible after the bird has been seen. Details should include the description taken in the field, before reference to any text books, the locality, date and time, habitat, weather conditions, optical aids used, distance from the bird, period of observation, species present for comparison if any, and previous experience of the species. Forms based upon those accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee can be obtained from any Vice-County Recorder for submitting details of any of the species listed below.

### Uncommon and Difficult Species

Great Northern Diver  
Black-throated Diver  
Slavonian Grebe  
Black-necked Grebe  
Cory's Shearwater  
Great Shearwater  
Storm Petrel  
Leach's Petrel  
Purple Heron  
White Stork  
Bean Goose  
Red-crested Pochard  
Ferruginous Duck  
Honey Buzzard  
Red Kite  
Montagu's Harrier  
Goshawk  
Rough-legged Buzzard  
Golden Eagle  
Hobby  
Spotted Crake  
Crane  
Stone Curlew  
Kentish Plover  
Temminck's Stint  
Pectoral Sandpiper  
Buff-breasted Sandpiper  
Red-necked Phalarope  
Grey Phalarope

Pomarine Skua  
Long-tailed Skua  
Mediterranean Gull  
Ring-billed Gull  
Iceland Gull  
Sabine's Gull  
Roseate Tern  
Black Guillemot  
Woodlark  
Richard's Pipit  
Tawny Pipit  
Bluethroat  
Cetti's Warbler  
Savi's Warbler  
Aquatic Warbler  
Marsh Warbler  
Icterine Warbler  
Melodious Warbler  
Barred Warbler  
Yellow-browed Warbler  
Firecrest  
Red-breasted Flycatcher  
Golden Oriole  
Chough  
Raven  
Serin  
Scarlet Rosefinch  
Cirl Bunting  
Ortolan Bunting

### British Birds Rarities

A complete list of species, descriptions of which are required by *British Birds* before publication in the annual Report on rare birds in Great Britain, was last published in *British Birds*, Vol. 81 (1988) Number 9 pages xv and xvi.

### Races and other unusual occurrences

The Reports Committee may request descriptions to support records of rare well-defined races of common species, or to support records of migrant birds seen out of season and commoner birds seen in unusual circumstances.

## The Vice-Counties

The Reports Committee consider that an explanation of the origin of the vice-county system used by the YNU Ornithological Section for recording purposes would be of value to contributors to the annual reports.

The Watsonian vice-county system dates from 1852 when Hewett Cottrell Watson, a noted English amateur botanist, at the end of the third volume of his *Cybele Britannica* gave a list of 38 sub-provinces and 112 vice-counties into which he proposed to divide the British Isles. The object of the vice-county system was to provide a set of unit areas more equal in dimensions than the counties, whose inequality in size was most inconvenient for botanical recording. The principle of his scheme was to divide the larger counties into two or more vice-counties, and to merge the smallest counties into large neighbours. This compromise achieved areas of roughly equal biological importance, without sacrificing the county system absolutely. Yorkshire was divided into five vice-counties.

Outline maps for each of the Yorkshire vice-counties are included below, and these also illustrate the effects of the political boundary changes of 1974. Four new counties were created, North, West and South Yorkshire and Humberside, and in addition five separate areas on the western and northern boundaries of the old county, each became a part of adjacent new counties. The latter change has led to the gradual loss of records for those areas, which by agreement are now covered by neighbouring organizations.

From 1945 the YNU Ornithological Section had used the Ridings as the basis for recording areas, but in 1960 adopted the vice-county system and appointed a recorder for each of the five areas.

Vice-County 61 comprises the old East Riding, being bounded on the south and west by the Rivers Humber and Ouse, and on the north by the A166 from York to Stamford Bridge, and then the River Derwent and River Hertford to the coast just north of Filey. Much of this vice-county is now in the northern part of Humberside, and the remainder is in North Yorkshire.

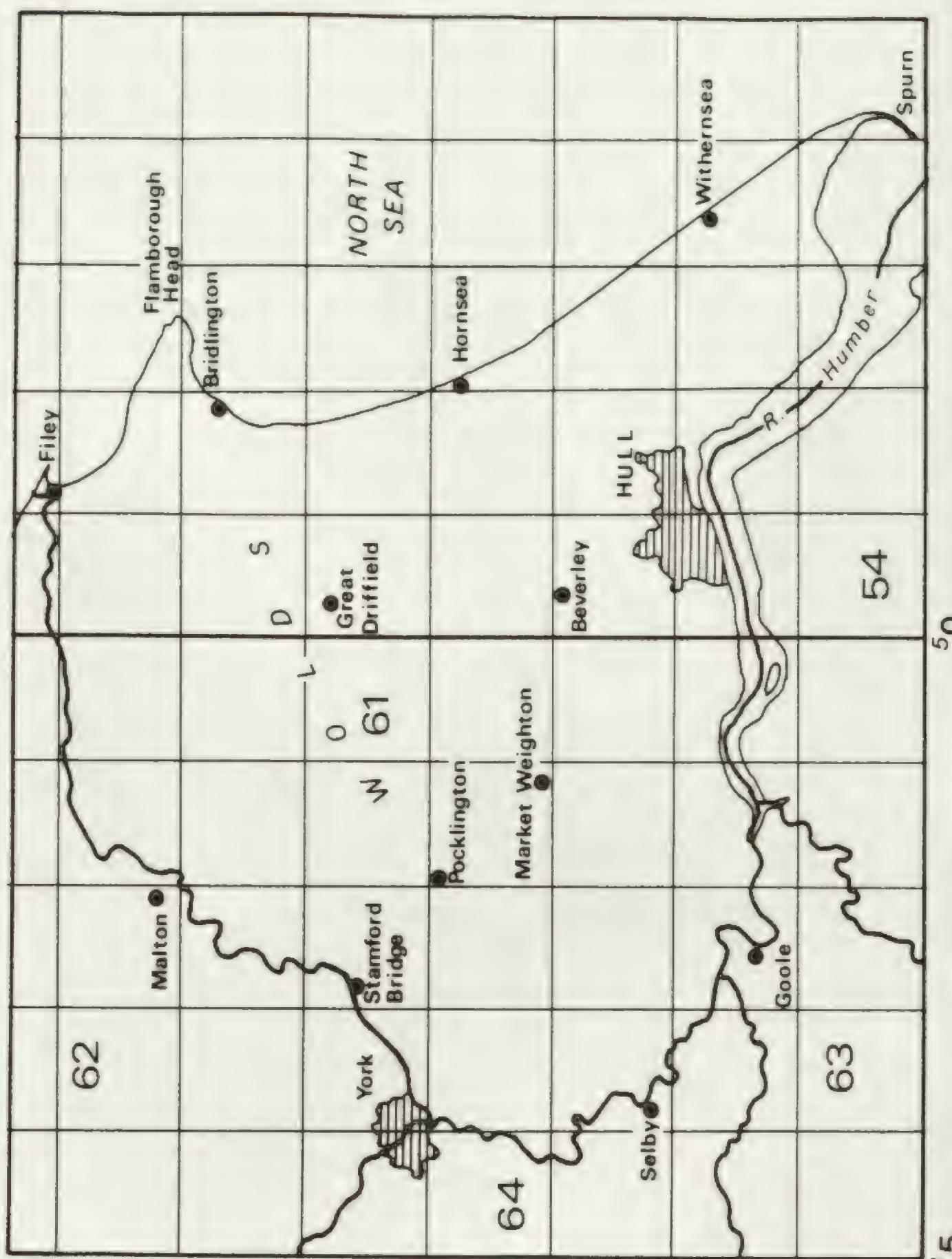
Vice-County 62 has V.C. 61 on its southern boundary, and on the west in the Vale of York the boundary follows the Rivers Swale and Wiske to the southernmost point of the Durham boundary east of Beverley Wood. The whole of this vice-county is now in North Yorkshire, apart from an area in the north around Middlesbrough, Guisborough and Saltburn which is now in Cleveland. The latter is in the recording area of the Teesmouth Bird Club, and records from there were last included in the 1973 report.

Vice-County 63 is separated from V.C. 64 to the north by the Leeds and Liverpool Canal, west of Leeds, and the River Aire east of Leeds. The whole of South Yorkshire; the southern three-quarters of West Yorkshire, and parts of Humberside and North Yorkshire are within its boundaries. A small area west of Huddersfield is now in Greater Manchester, and records from there have not been included since 1974.

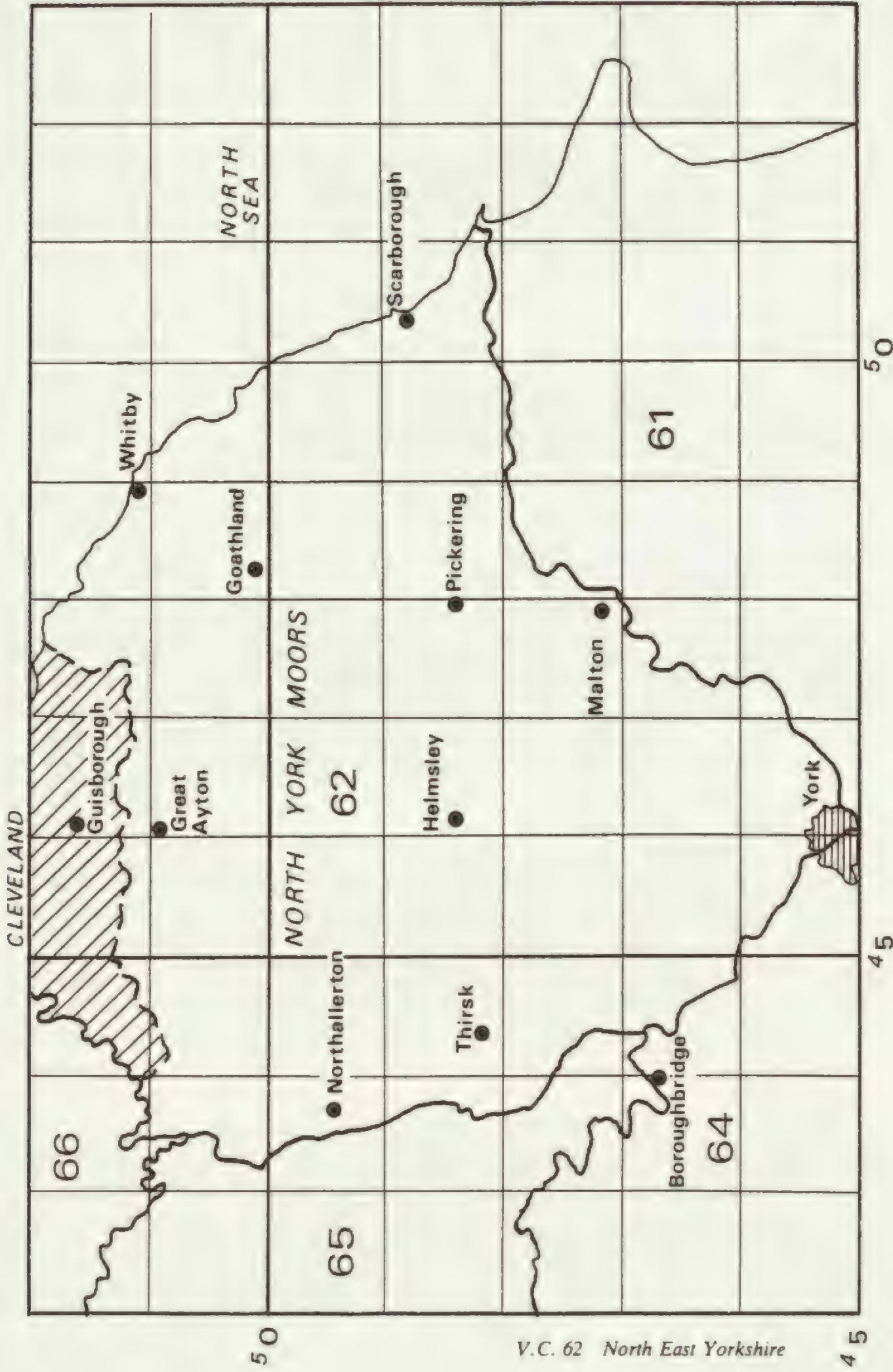
Vice-County 64 is bounded on the north by the former boundary between the North and West Ridings. This was basically the watershed between the Rivers Nidd and Wharfe to the south, and the River Ure to the north, the boundary being deflected at its western end so as to pass over Whernside to the south-eastern angle of Westmorland. The area including Barnoldswick, Gisburn and eastern parts of the Forest of Bowland is now in Lancashire and records for this area last appeared in the 1981 report.

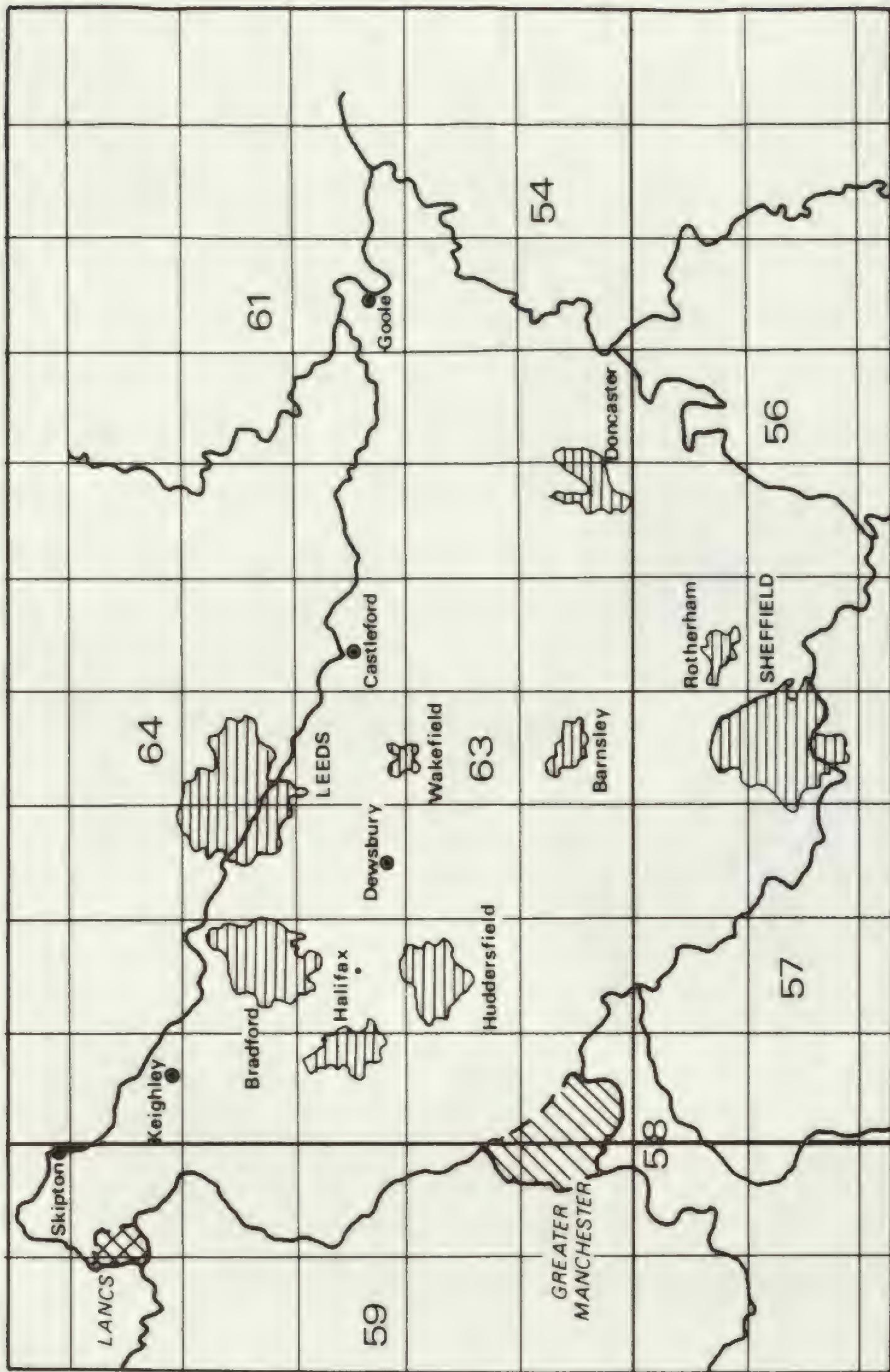
Vice-County 65 has the old county boundary to the north and west, and the other boundaries are described above. The area around Dentdale and Sedbergh is now part of Cumbria, and that of Upper Teesdale is now part of Durham, and records for these areas last appeared in the 1980 report.

The Reports Committee are indebted to Colin S. Shields for preparing the vice-county maps.



V.C. 61 South East Yorkshire

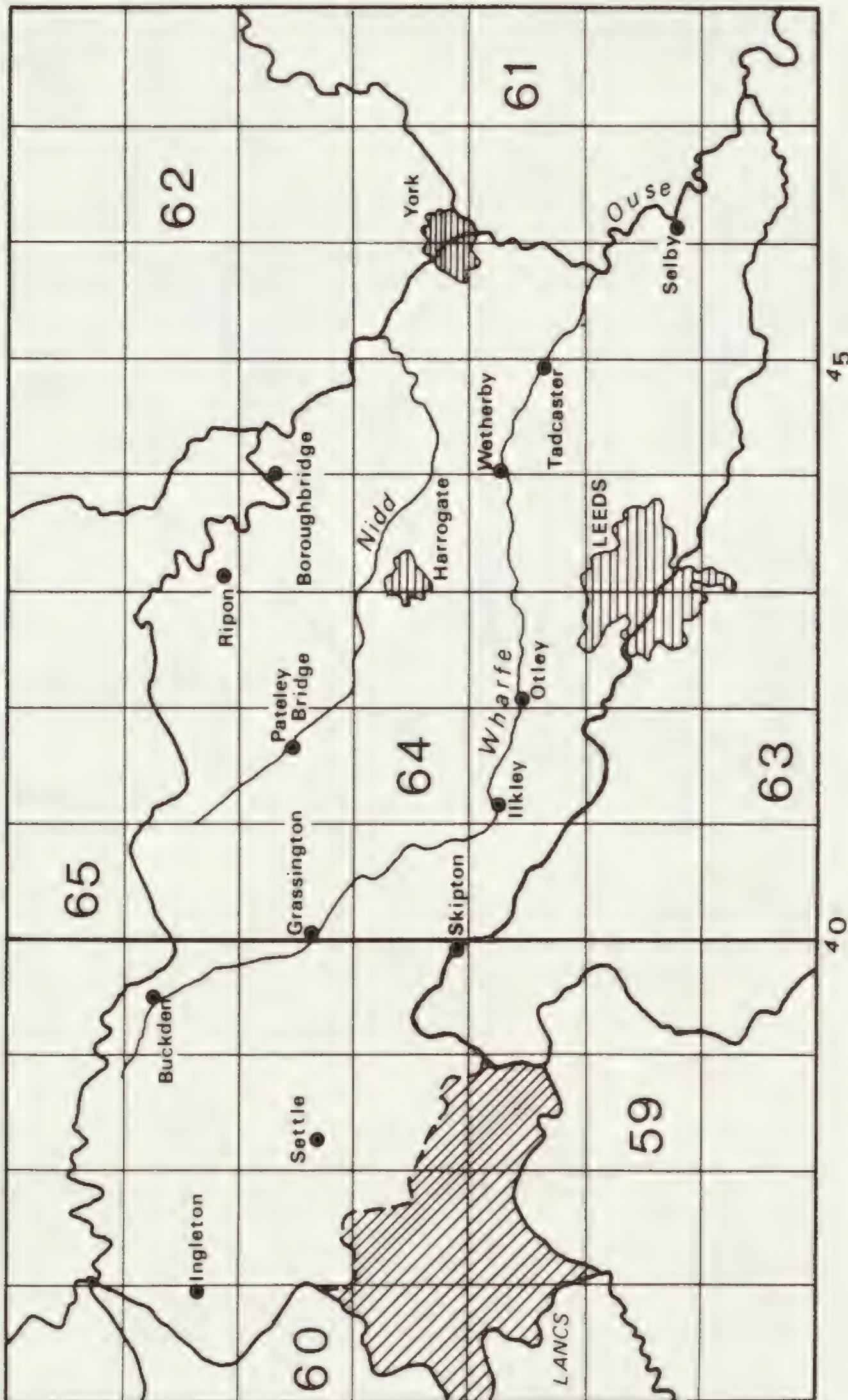


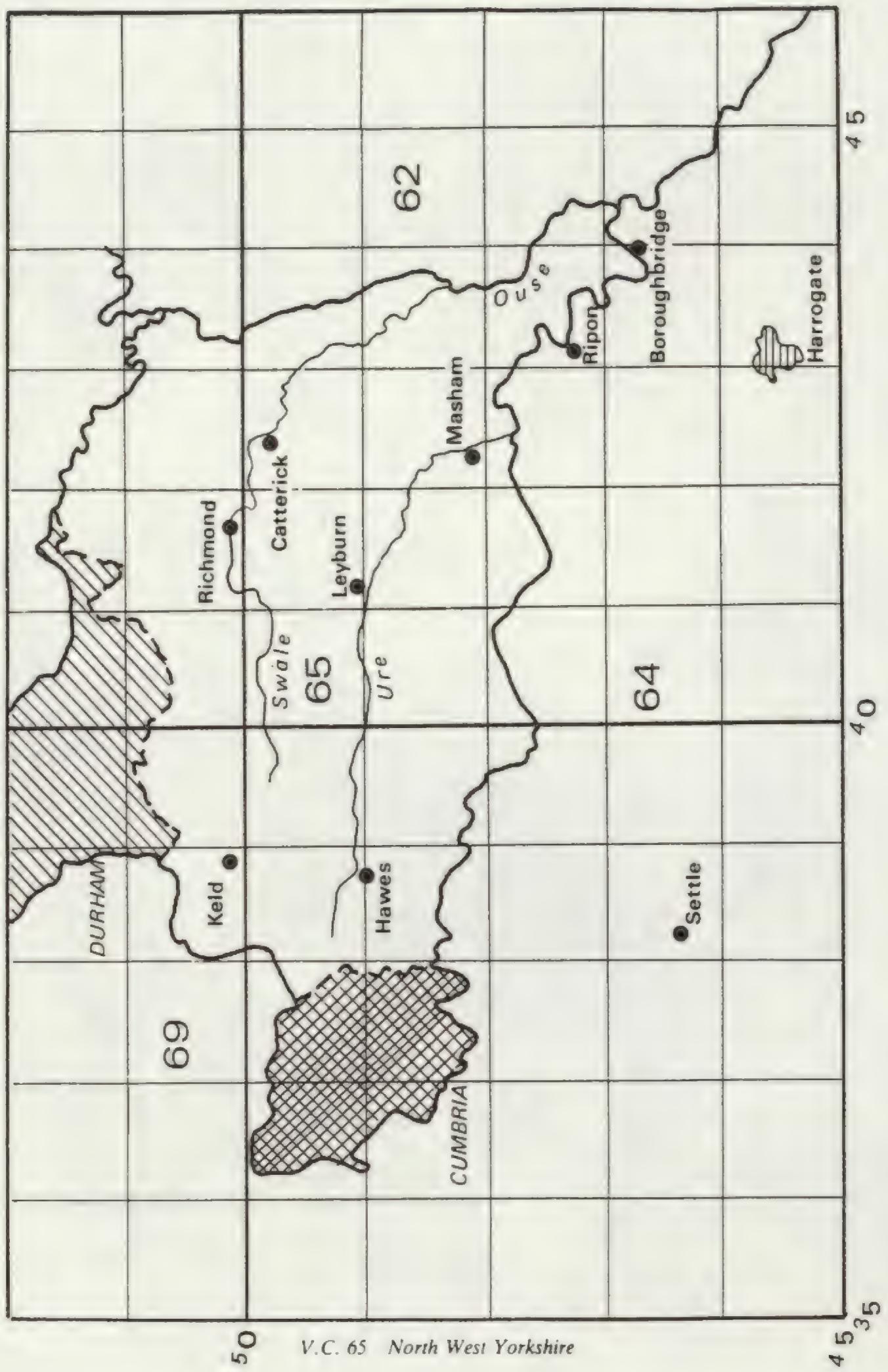


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V.C. 63 South West Yorkshire

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## Local Reports

The following local society and club reports for 1987 have been received and those readers requiring more detailed information on the areas concerned should consult these.

Barnsley and District Bird Study Group  
 Bradford Naturalists' Society  
 Bradford Ornithological Society  
 Castleford and District Naturalists' Society  
 Craven Naturalists' and Scientific Association  
 Doncaster and District Ornithological Society  
 Fairburn Ings Nature Reserve  
 Filey Brigg Ornithological Group  
 Halifax Scientific Society  
 Harrogate and District Naturalists' Society  
 Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club  
 Leeds Birdwatchers' Club  
 Settle Bird Club  
 Sheffield Bird Study Group  
 Spurn Bird Observatory  
 York Ornithological Club

Reports were also received from individuals or groups for their particular areas being as follows: Bempton Cliffs RSPB Reserve; Blacktoft Sands RSPB Reserve; Broomfleet Ponds; Cherry Cobb Sands/Stone Creek; Flamborough Ornithological Group; Hornsea Mere RSPB Reserve; Pickering Ornithological Group; Pugney's; Sunk Island; Tophill Low Wildlife Advisory Group; Wath Ings and Broomhill; Wintersett Res.

List of contributors whose initials appear in the classified list (with apologies for any omissions). The co-operation of these observers and the very many others who submitted records to their local societies is very much appreciated.

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